Hafa Adai!

CNMI's SBDC employees make it to nat'l SBDC 40 Under 40. PAGE 2

Terlaje: Work on unpermitted road cutting were for emergencies. PAGE 5

$1

Saipan Tribune

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TINIAN'S IMPROVED MARINA
The newly unveiled Tinian Marina now boasts a vast parking lot that includes six new car parking stalls and seven new trailer parking stalls for boaters, new restroom facilities, three new pavilions, and new solar lights. KIMBERLY ESMORES

$1M renovation of Tinian Marina unveiled

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—After over a year of rehabilitation work, the Tinian municipality and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have finally unveiled the new and improved Tinian Marina.

CPA board members and the Tinian leadership held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday to unveil the improved Tinian Marina, an over $1-million project funded by the Seaport portion of the Divert Lease proceeds.

The project was a collaborative effort of the Tinian

See $1M on Page 4

House nixes Senate changes to budget's concurrent resolution

» **Villagomez forms conference committee**

2024 from $172.5 million to $163 million.

With 16 House members voting "yes" to reject the Senate amendments to House Concurrent Resolution 23-2, Senate Substitute 1 and three voting "no," that paved the way for House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan)

See HOUSE on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives rejected Friday the Senate's amendments to the House concurrent resolution that reduced the administration's anticipated revenue in fiscal year

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
40

IF THE HOUSE BUDGET VERSION PASSES:

'96 Tinian employees to be notified by Oct. 1 about non-renewal of contracts'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

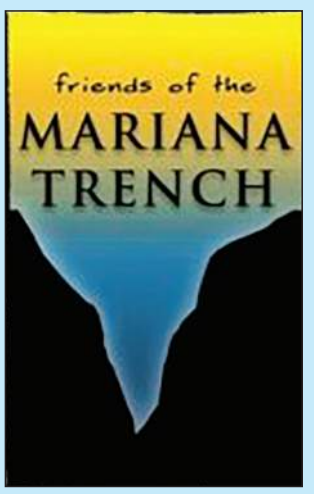
If the Senate passes the House of Representatives' version of the fiscal year 2024 budget, Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan will be informing all 96 employees of the Tinian municipality by Oct. 1 that their employment contracts will not be renewed.

"However, it is also the responsibility of the Legislature to explain to the people of Tinian why their positions were cut when all other positions in the CNMI were maintained," said Aldan

See EMPLOYEES on Page 4

FOMT withdraws sanctuary nomination

» **NOAA asked to remove Mariana Trench from sanctuary inventory**



The Friends of the Mariana Trench is withdrawing their nomination for a Mariana Trench national marine sanctuary and requesting that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration remove the Mariana

See FOMT on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Bank of Guam has reopened its Tamuning Branch, unveiling a futuristic design for its clients.
PAGE 12

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Advancements in cancer therapy are increasing survival rates and offering hope for a cure to more.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Vina Morales will be replacing Lea Salonga in the Broadway production of "Here Lies Love."
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Local

CNMI's SBDC employees make it to nat'l SBDC 40 Under 40

Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, and Benjamin Huk Borja of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College were nationally recognized for contributing to their local SBDC network through America's SBDC 40 under 40 awards.

The America's SBDC 40 Under 40 awards aim to spotlight the extraordinary contributions of individuals under 40 in the Small Business Development Center Network who have significantly impacted their local networks and the broader business landscape.

Guerrero

Palec

Borja

Among a pool of accomplished young entrepreneurs, the distinguished panel of judges in America's SBDC Millennial Interest Group selected 40 remarkable winners who stood out for their exceptional business acumen, innovative thinking, and commitment to driving growth and success.

"It is with great pleasure and admiration that we announce these exceptional young professionals who have shown remarkable potential and passion to serve the SBDC network and their clients," said Charles "Tee" Rowe, America's SBDC president and CEO. "Their dedication, hard work, and innovative mindset inspire not only their peers but also aspiring young professionals across the nation."

America's Small Business Development Center comprises over 1,000 local service centers. Of these centers, only 40 were selected from the nomination pool and three of the CNMI's very own were selected.

"We congratulate Nadine, Mercilynn, and Huk for their exceptional achievement," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "Being nationally recognized through America's SBDC 40 Under 40 awards is a testament to their dedication and impactful contributions to our local business community. These remarkable individuals, through their innovative thinking and unwavering commitment, have not only elevated their own careers but have also significantly influenced the business landscape."

Deleon Guerrero, who serves as the CNMI SBDC Network director, earned her bachelor's degree in Communications with a double emphasis in Public Relations and Mass Media and her master's in Public Administration degree from the University of Guam. Prior to her current role, Deleon Guerrero served on the CNMI Cannabis Commission board as its chairwoman where she had direct oversight on establishing the CNMI's cannabis industry. Deleon Guerrero has over 22 years of professional experience including over 10 years in the construction industry.

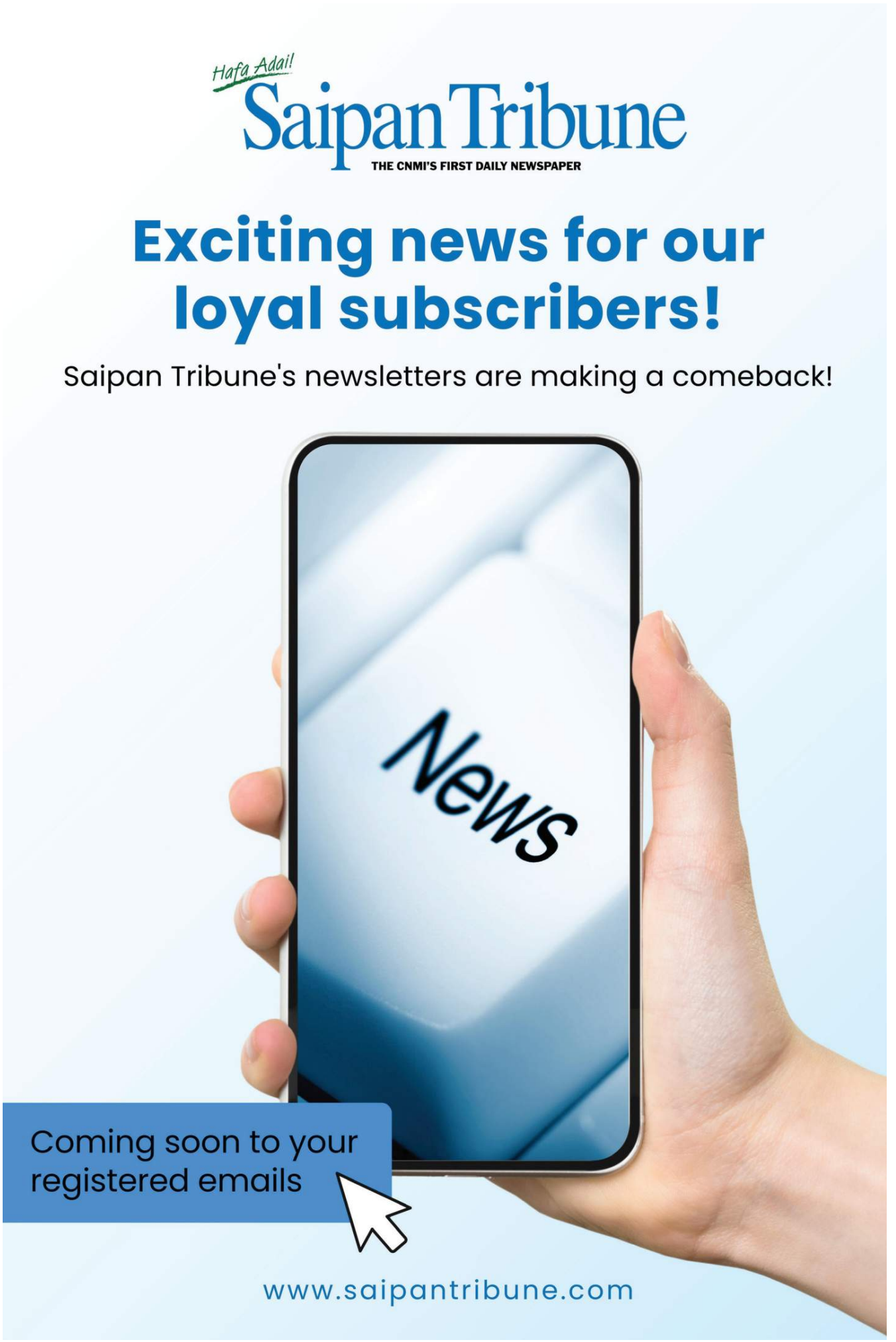
Palec, serves as the CNMI SBDC associate network director. A proud Proa, Palec earned her associate degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in education and bachelor's degree with an emphasis in Elementary Education from the Northern Marianas College. She went on to earn her master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Guam. Prior to joining the SBDC team, Palec was administrator/coordinator for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and managed a home-based ecommerce business for more than 10 years.

A Tinian native, Borja, serves as the Tinian SBDC director/business advisor. Borja earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Guam in 2016. He brings years of diverse work experience in the private sector—from manual labor in a small family-owned business, working in sales in a large retail business, to management and operations experience in an investment fund company.

America's SBDC launched the 40 Under 40 Award to recognize outstanding young SBDC staff across the nation who demonstrate innovation, leadership, and commitment to the SBDC mission. The winners will be celebrated at a reception during the 44th Annual America's SBDC Conference on Sept. 7 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee.

America's SBDC is the association that represents the nationwide network of Small Business Development Centers, the most comprehensive small business assistance network in

See CNMI's on Page 4



Vincole adopts Laly 4 basketball court in CK

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Laly 4 basketball court in Chalan Kanoa was "adopted" last Friday by Vincole Lawncare Services, becoming the eighth place in the Adopt-a-Place initiative of the Saipan's Mayor's Office.

In a short ceremony, Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho thanked Vincent Norita and Nicole Deleon Guerrero of Vincole Lawncare Services, and emphasized the importance of island cleanliness even as he urged more people to get involved as much as possible.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) recognize Vincent Norita of Vincole Lawncare Services as the adoptee of the Laly 4 basketball court in Chalan Kanoa.

Prior to the official adoption ceremony, Vincole Lawncare Service has been already looking after the court and sort of fostered care for the place. Both Norita and Deleon Guerrero said "...We wish to extend our greatest thanks to Mayor RB and the Saipan Mayor's office for providing us with this opportunity play an active part in our community. We will do our utmost to look after and maintain this basketball court, not only to show our commitment to the adopt a place program but to also give back something to the community."

Along with the adoptees' family, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Reps. Vincent Seman Aldan (Ind-Saipan) and Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) also attended the event.

Flores said, "When we come together as a community, that's when you really see the difference, you see the pride of our people, you see the pride of our children and that really comes alive."

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Friends team up to hold relief drive for Lahaina

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Four friends in the CNMI teamed up last Friday to host a donation drive at the United Filipino Organization pavilion in Oleai, with proceeds from the fundraiser to benefit the victims of the Lahaina wildfire in Maui, Hawaii, which has rendered thousands homeless.

The donation drive began Monday last week and, since Wednesday, has been available 24 hours for even odd hour donations.

Edwin Raymond Borja Quitugua, Herman Tudela, and Liana Hofschneider were onsite last Friday when Saipan Tribune went to the drive and they shared with the media a bit about the drive.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Edwin Raymond Borja Quitugua, Herman Tudela, and Liana Hofschneider and their friend pose for a photo at the United Filipino Organization pavilion in Oleai last Friday in front of their relief drive for the victims of the Lahaina fires.

For perishables, Quitugua said they will accept most things except cash and pastries. Their goal is to raise 12,000 cans of donations, which is equal to 500 cases, and if they receive more they would be grateful.

"I want to acknowledge the Filipino community because you guys really stepped up," he said, noting that the Leo Lions Club was the first to donate by giving a large amount of instant noodles.

Hofschneider said, "As a small community I believe we went through a lot of our own challenges and natural disasters and we are a very fortunate people to have people coming from all over to help us rebuild as quickly as possible I know we are very resilient. Our history has told us that...but this time we are not the beneficiaries. This time we have to be the givers."

The group of friends wants to make sure that this drive has nothing to do with politics or any agenda—they just wanted to help.

"So I'm reaching out to the community. …[Let's] put our differences aside and put our hearts together. All of us have big hearts; that's the beauty of our community. … We've got to show the people in Maui and Lahaina that we're…going to be there for them. They stood for us and so we have stand for them," said Hofschneider.

She said they would be accepting emergency supplies, baby diapers, solar lights, batteries etc.

"Thank you to all the donors that have been here. We really appreciate you. Please don't be a stranger and drop by. Whatever it is it's all welcome," she added.

The relief drive is expected to continue until next week Saturday. Aug. 26.

Get paid to sail

Thanks to seed money donated by the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands, nonprofit organization 500 Sails is looking for potential sailors to join its Beach Canoe Pilot Project.

The project is looking for members of the public who wound be interested to earn $7.50 to $24 an hour by sailing traditional canoes, with the potential to earn more based on one's credentials (Merchant Marine Credential; American Red Cross Waterfront Lifeguard Certification, or Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (6-Pack) Captain's License).

500 Sails will be holding an orientation on Aug. 23 for those interested in starting their MMC applications, which is a requirement for the Beach Canoe Project and other jobs on the sea.

Hands-on application session will soon follow where 500 Sails staff will assist you in completing the application step by step. ***(PR)***

FOMT

From page 1

Trench from the sanctuary inventory.

Friends board chair Sheila Babauta announced the move in a news release yesterday, saying that many things have changed since the 15 years ago when the Friends of the Mariana Trench first requested a national marine sanctuary designation for the Mariana Trench.

"The Mariana Trench is a national treasure, a great natural wonder of the world that is worthy of pride and protection," Babauta said. "But in the 15 years that have passed since the Friends first requested a national marine sanctuary, and the six years since NOAA accepted our nomination, circumstances in our community have changed and we see the need for more dialogue and education.

"We need to have more conversations about how we can work better together with our local and federal government partners to protect our ocean resources and achieve our conservation goals. We are withdrawing our sanctuary nomination for now, to make space for these important conversations," she added.

Friends board member emeritus Ignacio "Ike" V. Cabrera noted that the Friends leadership consulted with many stakeholders prior to making their decision to withdraw the sanctuary nomination. "We had meetings with ocean elders and youth, community members, [Delegate] Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Gov. Arnold [I.] Palacios," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

$1M

From page 1

municipal government and CPA, with help from Power Builders International.

The marina now sports a widened parking lot that includes six new car parking stalls and seven new trailer parking stalls for boaters.

In addition, the enhancement project saw the construction of restrooms, three new pavilions, and the installation of solar lights.

Joining CPA and Tinian leaders for the unveiling last Friday were members of the Tinian community and distinguished guest from Saipan.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan stated that the unveiling celebrates the transformation of the Tinian Marina—a project that many past Tinian leaders only dreamed about.

"We are gathered here today at the beautiful Tinian Marina for a momentous occasion—the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Tinian Marina Beautification project. Today we celebrate the remarkable transformation that has taken place in this valued waterfront and to express all our gratitude to the people who made this vision a reality," he said.

Aldan said the Tinian Marina enhancement project is significant for the Tinian community because it revitalized a space that is incredibly important to the Tinian community.

"The Tinian Marina serves as a vital space for the Tinian community where families gather, fishermen launch their boats, and tourists get a taste of our island's beauty. This effort to make this area more beautiful improves not only its aesthetic appeal, but also everyone's experience while using it," he said.

"As we stand before this beautiful transformation of the Tinian Marina, let us reflect on the collective efforts that have gone into making this dream a reality. This ribbon cutting is not just the end of a project, but a new chapter in the story of Tinian's progress," Aldan added.

Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Anna Marie San Nicolas echoed Aldan's sentiment, stating that the beautification of the Tinian Marina is only the beginning of the journey to improve Tinian.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From page 1

to form a conference committee that will hammer out with the Senate a mutually acceptable concurrent resolution.

Villagomez appointed Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) to serve as chair of the House conferees, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) is vice chair, and Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) is a member. Reps. Angelo Atalig Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Marissa R. Flores (Ind-Saipan) were appointed as alternate members.

The Senate's version decreased the total earmarks from $57,157,358 in the House's version to $48,008,048. This brings to $115,407,265 the net local revenue and resources available for appropriations, which is the same amount in the House's version.

Before the voting, Attao and Sablan discussed the reasons why they should reject the Senate's version, while Reps. Roy Christopher A. Ada (R-Saipan) and Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) raised some issues why they're supporting the Senate's amendments. Rep. Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) also voted against rejecting the Senate amendments.

Attao said that, although they respect their counterparts in the Senate and understand their point of view on how they presented the concurrent resolution when they adopted it during their session, the House also did its part and had submitted to the Senate the concurrent resolution as presented by the administration.

Attao said they do understand that the concurrent resolution only sets the ceiling of the appropriations for the CNMI for fiscal year 2024.

He, however, cited several sections of the Senate amendments to the concurrent resolution that the House has problems with.

"So for these reasons, I respectfully ask we reject the Senate version so we can go into conference committee and address these issues because they're removing $9-plus million from the top number," Attao said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

EMPLOYEES

From page 1

Thursday before the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's hearing on the fiscal year 2024 budget at the Kotten Tinian.

In preparation for Oct. 1—which is the the beginning of the new fiscal year—Aldan said his staff has already drafted notices of non-renewal in case this "unfortunate event" occurs.

"It is disheartening to note that our municipality seems to be the only one affected by such a significant reduction of employees," he said.

Aldan said this discrepancy raises questions about the fairness and the rationale behind this decision.

At the start of the budget hearing, Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan is requesting a budget of $10,754,440, to include 283 full time employees (FTEs).

Of the amount the municipality is asking for, $8 million or 75% is allocated for personnel, $2 million or 19% is for operations and $712,000 is for utilities.

Last week, the House passed their version of the budget, which essentially provided $688,00 in additional funding for the mayor's personnel, but reduced funding for Sports and Recreation, Labor, Commerce, police, fire, agriculture, and Parks and Recreation.

Aldan said the House's version for the Tinian Mayors' Office budget proposed only 28 FTEs, reducing the reducing the number of FTEs by 96 from the original 124.

Aldan said during the House Ways and Means budget hearing last month, he explained the important role of their office for the municipality of Tinian.

He said the Tinian Mayor's Office has always been given 124 FTEs to sustain the operations and services extended to the community.

He said if the Legislature is unable to reinstate the 124 FTEs, which is the initial number of employees originally budgeted for their office, the Tinian municipality will essentially grind to a halt as they are not only overseeing all the state departments on Tinian but they also coordinate with autonomous agencies relating to municipal matters.

Aldan said that during the House budget hearing, the committee focused on the $3-million American Rescue Plan Act funds the municipality has received and numerous revolving accounts that could possibly be identified as an additional funding source to assist in sustaining personnel and operations at the mayor's office.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CNMI'S

From page 2

the United States and its territories. Hosted by leading universities, colleges, state economic development agencies, and private partners, nearly 1,000 local centers provide management and technical assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their own businesses. SBDCs are funded in part by Congress through a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration. ***(NMC)***

Terlaje: Work on unpermitted road cutting were for emergencies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s unpermitted road cutting were done in response emergencies, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje in response to the $6.9 million civil fees and civil penalties now being assessesd against CUC by the Department of Public Works.

Terlaje

"How do you wait for a [DPW] permit when you have a water line that's busted underneath the road that might cause more issues?" asked Terlaje during a short break of the CUC board meeting last Thursday.

She said when water line on a road is busted and cars are passing, they need to conduct emergency repairs as it's more detrimental to the safety of the community.

Terlaje said they are going to discuss the assessment with DPW Secretary Ray N. Yumul.

Last month, George C. Sablan, the acting director for DPW Technical Services Division, notified Terlaje that, as of June 30, 2023, CUC owes the CNMI government $6.9 million in outstanding civil fees and civil penalties assessed by DPW for about 110 alleged violations that are mainly related to unpermitted road cutting work.

Sablan said these road-cutting and trenching activities on CNMI roadways were performed by CUC's Water Division to fix emergency water leak repairs and water connection underground. He said these road-cutting and trenching activities were performed without required permits and permit applications.

Terlaje said they can't wait for Monday to get a DPW permit, especially when the water line is busted Friday night and the hole is getting larger.

She said CUC is forced to go to the road and cut off the water line.

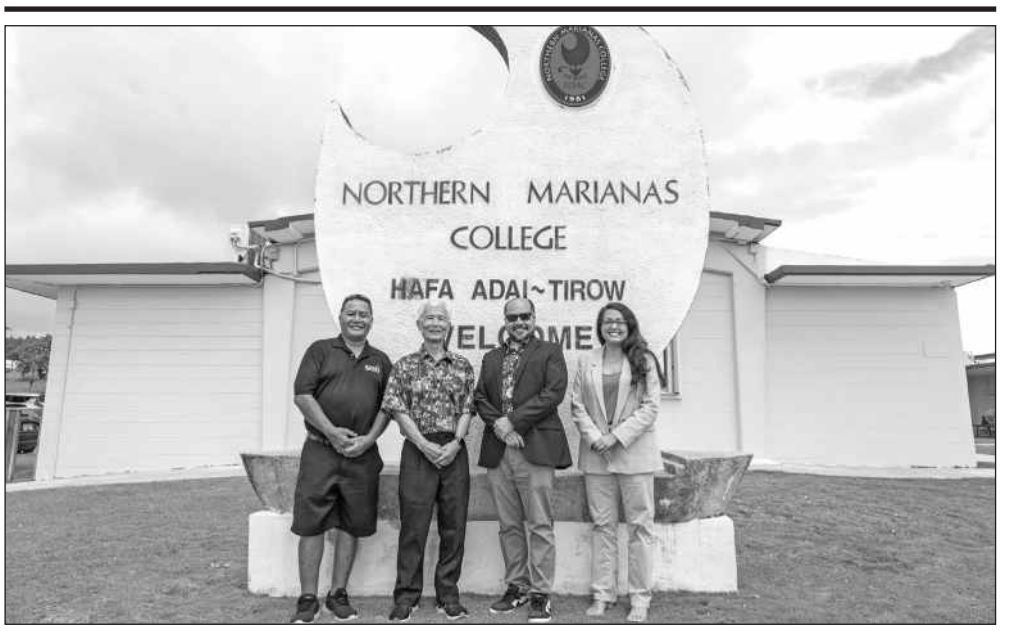
Terlaje said the problem is when they restore the road, the contractors that make holes, they have to make larger patches on the road.

She said they have to execute contracts to repair the road.

Terlaje noted that some of the waterline breaks are caused by DPW's work on the side of the road and other contractors that perform work for other agencies.

"So it's a compilation of other agencies. Remember, our pipes have been in the ground for a while and DPW paved the road over our pipes," she said.

Terlaje said they have no other means to access their pipe, but to break the road to get the repairs underneath the road.



NMC VISIT NMC

Northern Marianas College recently welcomed Dr. Cheng Sheng Lee, second from left, executive director for the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, as he visited the NMC Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services – Aquaculture and Natural Resources Program Center. During his visit, he engaged in discussions with key figures, including NMC-CREES A&NR program leader Michael Ogo, leftmost; NMC-CREES interim dean Patty Coleman, rightmost; and NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, second from right. Lee discussed the current forktail rabbitfish capacity building project with Ogo, and shared his feedback on the project's progress. Lee also made visits to CREES Aquaculture client farms and met with CNMI stakeholders to discuss future funding opportunities for aquaculture projects.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 14, 2023 CLOSING DATE: August 29, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-016	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Saipan	$25,000.00-$30,000.00-per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)
Shell Gasoline Service Stations
Has an opening for an Auditor/Accounting Staff

For established small business
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- Must demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.
- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English.
- Can work under minimum supervision.
- Can work on a fast paced environment.
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- Organized, honest, trustworthy and a team player.
- Great attitude.
- We will train the right person
- On island reference & police clearance required.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS 08/14/23

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan MP, 96950
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 30, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) Tinian Gymnasium and Aging Center Rehabilitation Project	Rehabilitation	San Jose, Tinian	Approximately $1,183,958.93 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by August 29, 2023, 4:30 p.m. will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C will accept objections to its release of fund and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov or via telephone (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact e U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor of the CNMI

Temporary schedule for PUA unit

The CNMI Department of Labor's Benefit Payment Control Unit will be temporarily observing a modified office hour schedule from Aug. 22 through Aug. 25, 2023, due to Professional Development Training to be conducted by the National Association of State Workforce Agency.

Benefit Payment Control staff will be unavailable from 7:30am to 12:30pm for the affected dates. Regular operations will resume on Aug. 28, 2023.

Should any claimants under the Benefit Payment Control foresee any need to meet with the Department, contact your assigned auditor and schedule your meeting/ appointment based on their respective availability.

If you have questions regarding this, contact the following numbers: (670) 322-8870, 8871, 8872 or (670) 322-9994, 9944. ***(CNMI DOL)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2023-009

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: September 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Tinian Children's Park Improvement Project

Project Package will be available on August 14, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office in Tinian located at the NMC Campus in Tinian on **August 25, 2023, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Jedric Villar makes it to the Montclair State U's Dean's List

MONTCLAIR, NJ— Montclair State University congratulates Jedric Villar of Saipan on being named to the university's Spring 2023 Dean's List. Villar is a Film and Television major.

Villar was among nearly 6,000 Red Hawks named to the spring 2023 Dean's List. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

"We look forward to seeing more of our students' academic achievements at Montclair State University," the school said in a statement.

Montclair State University is a research doctoral institution and has 13 colleges and schools that serve more than 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students with more than 300 doctoral, master's and baccalaureate programs. ***(PR)***

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

Has an opening for

Customer Service Cashier /Pump Attendant

- We are looking for energetic people who are friendly, smiling, dependable, and desires to be a team player to work as Customer Service Representatives.
- Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate effective: People skills. Communication skills. English and Math Skills.
- Reliable transportation is required.
- Must be punctual.
- Must be willing to learn new skills & follow instructions.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule; including Sundays and Holidays.
- Sales or Customer Service background helpful
- A High School Diploma or GED required.
- On island references & police clearance required.

Application form is available in any of our five (5) Service Stations:

1) Shell Highway Express Gualo Rai (beside First Hawaiian Bank)
2) Shell Puerto Rico
3) Shell San Roque
4) Shell Susupe
5) Shell Dandan

Delta Management is an Equal Opportunity Employer
(No phone call please)

SBDC at NMC served over 500 clients in the CNMI

As part of its continuing efforts to expand entrepreneurial capacity in the CNMI, the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College has provided one-on-one consulting, training, and information resources to over 500 clients looking to initiate a business venture or enhance their existing endeavors.

"We are committed to cultivate the success of our local business community through tailored guidance and unwavering support," CNMI SBDC network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero said. "The CNMI SBDC continues to strive to be the driving force behind every success story in the local business landscape."

Derek Cutting, the owner of Latte Built — 24hr Fitness & Nutrition, said the CNMI SBDC was a huge help during the pandemic.

"CNMI SBDC was a huge asset in helping us make up for the economic disaster that we encountered from the COVID-19 pandemic," Cutting said. "They were able to explain to us the Protection Paycheck Program from the U.S. Small Business Administration that helped us retain our employees during the pandemic. Since then, CNMI SBDC has helped us bridge the gap with SBA to qualify for additional loans."

SBDC has been a part of the CNMI for more than a decade; however, the SBDC gained independent network status in 2022 and is now hosted by Northern Marianas College. The CNMI SBDC has hosted 23 training events with various community partners to include Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center, USDA Food Service Agency, CNMI Women's Association, Bank of Guam, and the CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management. More than 250 individuals have attended these free sessions.

NMC

CNMI Small Business Development Center marketing manager and outreach specialist Roman Tudela speaks with Latte Built staff member Ralph Villas.

As part of the CNMI SBDC Network's services, counselors provided advice to several clients, which led to successful attainment of capital to start or expand their business operations in the amount of $1.2 million.

The Network's signature events include the Friends of Business Summit and SEED to Sail event. To increase presence in the community, the Network hosted several Small Business Nights to highlight local artists and small businesses. Earlier this year, the SBDC on Rota hosted its first Small Business Night in February followed by the first Tinian Small Business Night in March.

The CNMI SBDC Network is the latest addition to the national organization, America's SBDC Network. While numerous SBDCs across the nation provide comparable services, the CNMI SBDC Network distinguishes itself by offering all of its services at no cost. This approach aligns with the unwavering commitment to fulfill the network's mission and cater comprehensively to the needs of clients.

Hosted by leading universities, colleges, state economic development agencies, and private partners, nearly 1,000 local centers provide management and technical assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their own businesses. SBDCs are funded in part by Congress through a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow. ***(NMC)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev.1

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev. 1 Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing n**o later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 10, 2023,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
House of Justice • Guma Hustisia • Imwal Aweewe
2736 Insáttu St., JCT Bldg II, Unit 6, Susupe
P.O. Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179 www.cnmilaw.org
Tel: (670) 236-9820 Cell: (670) 287-9700 cnmilaw@nmijudiciary.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 24, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission
2736 Insáttu St.
JCT Bldg II Unit 6, Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. Preliminary Matters
   a. Call to Order and Roll Call
   b. Proof of Notice of Meeting
   c. Review and Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2023, Regular Meeting
2. Reports of the Executive Director and Committees
   a. Office & Staff Update
   b. Publications & Website
      i. Supreme Court Opinions, Superior Court Orders, NMI Reporter
      ii. CMC
      iii. NMIAC
      iv. Driver's Handbook
      v. Website redesign .gov domain
   c. Other Projects
      i. NHPRC Grant Application
      ii. XML Data Standard Update
   d. Sales and Other Reports
   e. FY 2023 and FY 2024 Budget & Expenditures
3. Unfinished Business
4. New Business
5. Public Comment
6. Place and Date of Next Meeting
7. Other Matters

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com
The Marianas

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room.**

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      i. July 26, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance Committee
      i. Fund Status
4) **Old Business**
   a. Global Branding
   b. CDBG-DR
5) **New Business**
   a. Reduction of Work Hours
   b. Office of the Public Auditor-Ethics Presentation
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
   a. Other
   b. Next Regular Board Meeting
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
05-2023(b)

Opening date: August 14, 2023 **Closing date: September 01, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Airport Manager	UNGRADED
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) AOA Controller I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location: TINIAN		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location: ROTA		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Rota Ports Manager	UNGRADED
	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance I	PL 5/1 to 5/12($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or ***CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 01, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Vaccines save lives. If your doctor recommends them, don't hesitate

Of all the misinformation spread about COVID-19, the lies about vaccines have been especially disgusting.

According to some of the nonsense circulated on social media, the lifesaving jabs cause infertility, autism and even death—all part of a diabolical plot to reduce the world's population by billions of people.

Another phony story said these lifesaving products supposedly contain substances that a government could use to conduct surveillance. And the companies behind the vaccines were accused of foot-dragging during the 2020 presidential campaign to hurt the chances of ex-President Donald Trump, who as every rational person knows, needed no assistance in losing decisively to President Joe Biden.

Back to reality: The COVID-19 vaccines were an amazing public health achievement. Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax and other vaccine-makers distributed hundreds of millions of doses in record time, and they deserve credit, not paranoid conspiracy theories.

COVID-19 is still circulating, and it still represents a health threat. But you can tell the crisis has abated by checking out the declining stock prices of those same vaccine companies. During the pandemic, complaints ramped up about the profits they made—"profiteering," some misguided critics called it.

Those days are over. Profits have tumbled from COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments. Even as Big Pharma rushes to produce new vaccines updated for the fall season, people already are taking these medical miracles for granted, underestimating the companies' potential to achieve breakthroughs and ignoring the need to prepare for the next emerging disease, whenever it arrives.

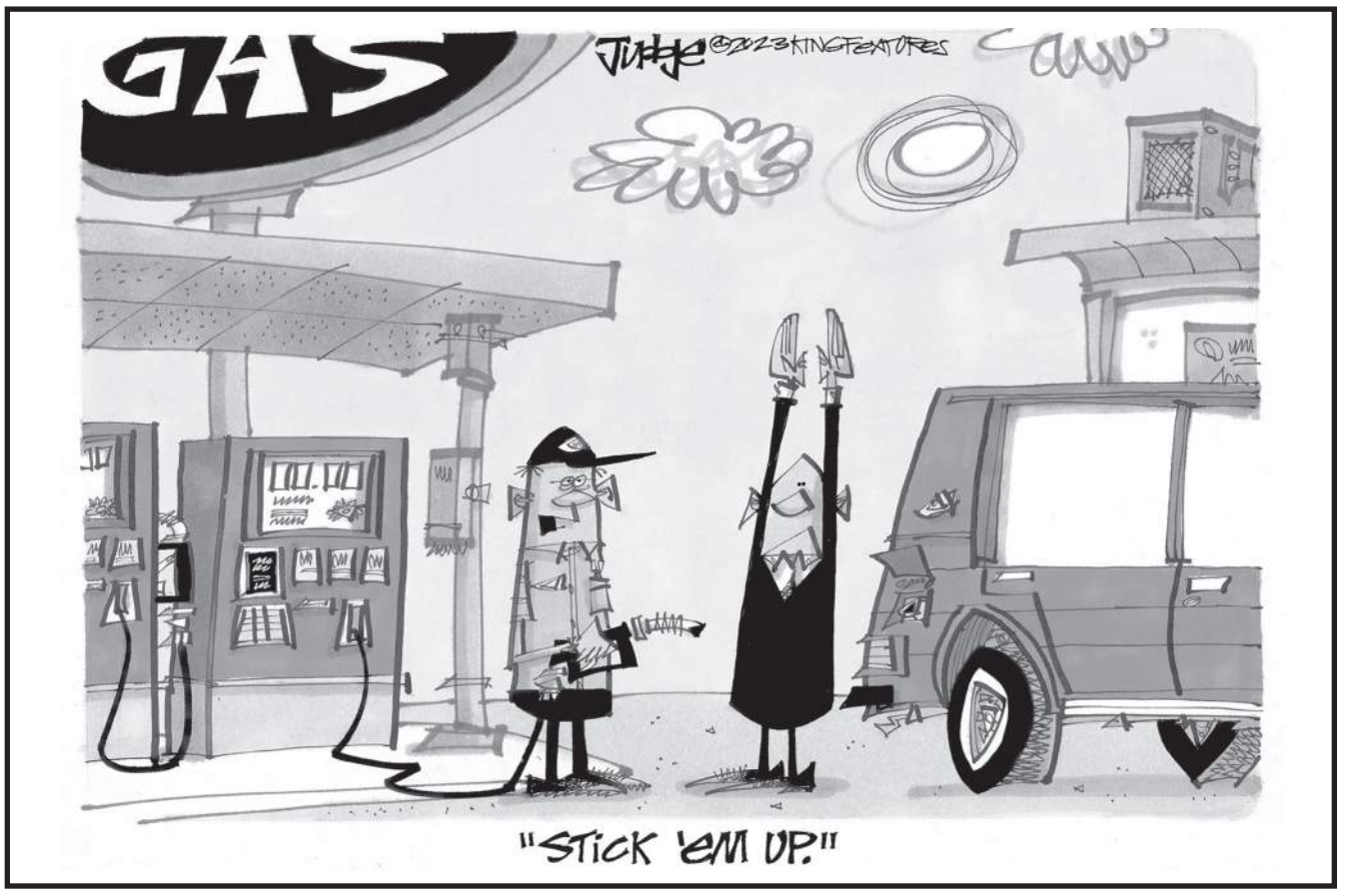
Remember that for much of the 1990s and 2000s, the companies making vaccines were doing so practically out of charity. Research and development costs, plus the testing process for any new pharmaceutical, made vaccines an unattractive commercial investment, and some companies abandoned the marketplace. At the time, public health experts called on the federal government to take over production to ensure an adequate supply.

The market eventually turned around based on demand for vaccines in developing countries, as the World Health Organization, the Gavi public-private vaccine partnership and other groups poured funds into vaccinating the poor. On the business side, some new or updated vaccines turned out to be profitable, such as Merck's Gardasil for human papillomavirus.

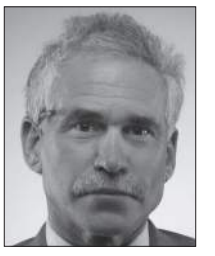
Then along came COVID-19, bringing new vaccine technology to the forefront, with amazing results.

Instead of introducing a weak or inactive version of a virus into the body to produce an immune response, mRNA vaccines can teach the body how to make a specific protein that can treat or prevent diseases. Vaccines based on nanotechnology, using tiny particles as a delivery system, can similarly im-

See Vaccines on Page 9



Another day, another Trump indictment isn't some ho-hum event



By MARK Z. BARABAK
Los Angeles Times

Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, *focusing on politics in California and the West.*

It's not every day a former president of the United States is criminally indicted.

In the case of Donald Trump, it's just about every month.

As a congressional staffer noted on Twitter—er, make that X—Trump now faces prosecution "in every NL East city other than Philadelphia"—a waggish observation suggesting perhaps we've reached the first-as-tragedy-then-as-farce stage of Trump's legal travails.

To fill out the scorecard, the felonious former president has rolled up a rap sheet:

— In New York, for allegedly falsifying business documents to hush up his extramarital dalliances.

— In Miami, for skulking off with super-secret White House documents and spreading them like confetti around his Mar-a-Lago estate.

— In Washington, for trying to overturn his 2020 election defeat and inciting a mob that staged a deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol.

— In Atlanta, for trying to strong-arm Georgia officials into "finding" the votes needed to reverse his loss in the Peach State.

If making off with the Liberty Bell would have nullified Joe Biden's victory in Pennsylvania, Trump would have doubtless stolen the national treasure, and would now be facing criminal charges in Philadelphia as well, thus completing his sweep of baseball's National League Eastern Division.

There's something worse, though, than finding humor in the true wretchedness of Trump's misdeeds.

It's apathy.

Trump's superpower as a politician has been his remarkable capacity to survive a string of scandals, moral and ethical trespasses and criminal allegations that would have killed off mere mortals.

Part of it is velocity. The mind barely stops reeling from one episode—an outrageous statement, a bald-faced lie, a norm-busting line no president before Trump had ever crossed—when another swiftly follows.

Part of it is volume. In the whole history of the United States, no president or former president has ever faced criminal indictment. Forty-five chief executives: zero criminal charges. Trump: 91 as of Monday's Fulton County, Ga., indictment.

The cumulative effect is anesthetizing, and politically damaging.

In the 1990s, the scholar and former New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan coined the phrase "defining deviancy down" to describe how societies tend to accept once-intolerable behavior, thus lowering the standards for what is deemed proper conduct going forth. How quaint now to consider what used to pass for political scandal: some pilfered lines from a stump speech, an extramarital affair, a youthful experimentation with drugs.

Trump made his fortune, and reputation, slapping his surname on all manner of goods: ties, dress shirts, wine, bottled water, hotels, high-rises.

As bad and kitschy as many of those products may be, Trump's larger, more sordid legacy will be the lowering of our social and political standards to subterranean levels.

Stunningly, a third or so of Republican Party voters seem willing not only to countenance Trump's criminality and moral turpitude, but actually celebrate it.

He is, for now, the far-and-away front-runner for the GOP nomination. More Republicans need the starch of Georgia's governor, Brian Kemp, who responded to Trump's latest indictment with a blistering statement.

"The 2020 election in Georgia was not stolen," the GOP governor said on social media Tuesday.

"For nearly three years now, anyone with evidence of fraud has failed to come forward—under oath—and prove anything in a court of law," he continued. "... The future of our country is at stake in 2024 and that must be our focus."

Most of Trump's GOP rivals are too timid to hold him to account for his criminality and his unrelenting attacks on the country's foundational principles. They apparently hope—as his 2016 competition did with his execrable behavior then —that Trump will ultimately fall under the weight of the cumulative criminal prosecutions.

We'll see.

Nearly as bad as acceptance is resignation.

Discussing the ex-president's lengthening criminal docket, Republican Sen. Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming told the Huffington Post's Igor Bobic that people have grown numb to Trump indictments.

"I think it shows that politicians lie, and [people] know they're lying," she said. "The liar knows that people know he's lying, and the people that are being lied to know they're being lied to. That is political reality in 2023."

And that's precisely the danger: that voters will shrug and treat the spectacularly abnormal as though it were normal.

It's not just another day when a former president is indicted, for the fourth time in a little over four months.

It's a horror, an outrage and a summons to make sure Trump never gets remotely close to wielding political power again.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Women are drinking more alcohol and it's killing them

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of* Chemical & Engineering News.

New data show that more U.S. women are dying from alcohol than ever before. Public health authorities need to adopt more effective strategies to help women realize when their drinking is a problem. Considering the many marketing messages pushing a "rosé all day" lifestyle, that campaign will be an uphill battle.

But exposing the dangers of drinking will save lives. A recent analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that alcohol-related deaths among women increased by nearly 15% per year between 2018 and 2020. The pandemic potentially exacerbated the trend, with overall alcohol-related deaths in the U.S. rising precipitously in spring 2020 and continuing to rise through 2021, the most recent data available.

> …alcohol-related deaths among women increased by nearly 15% per year between 2018 and 2020.

"If you go back to 1990, there were five times as many men who had alcohol use disorder than women—now it's two times," says George Koob, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Men's drinking has declined, while women are drinking more. "The gender differences are converging." The trend starts early: College-age women now surpass their male counterparts in binge drinking, Koob says.

Those habits used to get curtailed when women married and had children—people are known to drink less during the life transitions of marriage and parenthood—but with more women delaying or forgoing both, the heavy-drinking behavior persists longer. According to a recent study, delayed motherhood is one of the factors creating a larger group of women at risk of alcohol abuse disorder.

Women at the top of the socioeconomic spectrum appear to be driving the change. "Increases in alcohol consumption and binge drinking are concentrated among the highest levels of education, highest level of family income and occupations that are considered more prestigious," says Columbia University epidemiologist Katherine Keyes, who authored the study.

And it's possible that marriage and parenthood no longer act as sufficient buffers against excessive consumption. Much ink has been spilled over the #winemom phenomenon. Researchers suspected the yearslong proliferation of memes about moms drinking to numb their stress might be helping to drive a fundamental shift in the acceptability of drinking.

Unpacking why women are drinking more should shape public health experts' strategy for reversing the trend. Certainly, the pervasive signals that drinking is part of being a successful, carefree person—those omnipresent "Life Laugh Wine" signs—don't help. Neither does the sudden influx of beverages like hard seltzers and canned cocktails that seem tailored to women.

The marketing push to sell women alcohol is eerily similar to the tobacco industry's push of Virginia Slims—and the brand's famous "You've come a long way, baby" slogan—which resulted in a marked rise in rates of smoking among women, says Dawn Sugarman, a research psychologist in the division of alcohol, drugs, and addiction at McLean Hospital.

Given women's higher rates of anxiety and depression, the natural question is whether they are drinking more to cope. While some data suggests that plays a role, data emerging from Keyes's lab suggests that there's more going on. In surveys where people are asked to give their reasons for drinking, the biggest change she's seeing is more women saying they're drinking to have fun.

That suggests public health authorities need to make women more aware of the health consequences of high-risk drinking patterns. Women's bodies have less water (which can dilute the alcohol), more fat (which can retain it), and lower levels of a metabolic enzyme (which breaks it down before it gets into the bloodstream). "There's a faster progression to alcohol use disorder than men, and women are more vulnerable to hangovers, liver inflammation, cardiovascular disease and even certain cancers," Koob says.

That's quite a list.

Yet few women seem to be aware that they could suffer greater health harms than men after consuming lower amounts of alcohol. Sugarman says many women tell her they had no idea. "These are women in treatment, and many have been in and out of treatment multiple times. And they've never heard about it," she says.

Doctors must do a better job of screening women and highlighting those risks. Primary care providers are on the front line of identifying a brewing problem, and yet one large study showed that they are far less likely to probe women than men over their drinking habits.

And the way they pose their questions about drinking matters, too, Sugarman says. A physician might bring their own biases into the exam room, resulting in an approach that closes off conversation. Sugarman recalls a doctor once asking her, "You don't drink alcohol, do you? And the answer to that is no, right?"

Providers should press beyond the question of, "How many drinks do you have each week?" to offer some information on the heightened health consequences for women, and perhaps explain the benefits of forgoing the extra drinks, Koob says. And primary care screenings should also more often translate into referrals for help.

Just like holding a slim cigarette was never truly a sign of women's progress, neither is holding a glass of rosé. Public health agencies would do well to remind women what happened the last time we let marketing agencies shape our notion of modern women: Lung cancer rates skyrocketed and women died.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Deeper than the Mariana Trench

My dear people of the Marianas,

I've been advocating for the Mariana Trench marine monument for 15 years and the sanctuary nomination for the last five years. I am particularly frustrated with the federal process but hopeful that the Palacios/Apatang administration will help us move forward as a community, in the way that we protect our ocean resources and engage with our partners and each other. And there is currently only one way I can see that we can start. I would like you to know that the Friends of the Mariana Trench wrote to NOAA Sanctuaries requesting that they withdraw our sanctuary nomination from the inventory.

We believe in the preservation of our culture. Our people have always lived off our lands and waters. We have always understood that the land and ocean can provide sustenance for our families. It is our honor and responsibility to perpetuate this legacy. We want our children to inherit abundance and we believe that conservation management of our resources done correctly can provide for them indefinitely. We believe in providing support to allow traditional knowledge to coexist with Western-style research and the recording of scientific findings. Through this model, we can share our knowledge and translate culture into research outcomes which will, in turn, provide our youth with the skills to maintain the gifts that our islands have provided to us for generations. We believe that science and research can be beneficial in helping us to carry our best practices forward.

It's with this in mind that I see that our community situation is deeper than the Mariana Trench. It is clear in every conversation that we have that there is a lot of confusion about what's the Monument and what's the Sanctuary nomination. We have listened to the community and believe it is more important to address our community's concerns first. By withdrawing the sanctuary nomination, we can start over, and start on neutral ground. To begin with, we will ask for dialogue with our local government agencies, Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality, and CNMI Fish and Wildlife to discuss the differences between the Monument and what is a sanctuary. We will also invite our federal partners (U.S. Fish & Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Sanctuaries) to join these conversations.

There is common ground to be built on in the values we share about ocean conservation. To ensure that everyone can join in the dialogue, we will work with these agencies to figure out ways host village meetings to give everyone the chance to participate. Together with the community, we can rebuild the ideas we want for ocean conservation that balances protections with sustainable fishing, cultural practices, and our way of life. The solution is to come together to build a plan that we can all agree on, and then share resources and collaborate to implement that plan. Our collective love for the ocean is deeper than the Mariana Trench, and future generations are counting on us to take care of it.

Ignacio V. "Ike" Cabrera
I Akgak, Saipan

VACCINES

From page 8

prove treatments and make the immune system more effective.

If the technology behind vaccines sounds complex or even scary, consider the good that can be done with it to combat, for instance, the scourge of cancer: Gardasil is one of several vaccines that target viruses responsible for causing cancer, and immunotherapy is being used to help the immune system recognize cancer cells and eliminate them.

Want additional breakthroughs? Then don't complain when a vaccine company earns a profit. As it stands, some of the companies that made bank at the peak of the pandemic are persevering during the current financial drought to prep three vaccines that everyone should consider this fall.

Next month is expected to bring the first of the new COVID-19 vaccines, which target the less-lethal but still dangerous XBB variant now in circulation. Most children and adults are expected to be eligible for it, but the government will no longer buy up and distribute supplies, so people will need to get it on their own.

Steps needed to ensure liability protection, insurance coverage and wide access to the new shots could delay a rollout into October.

At the same time, the annual flu shot is being readied by a range of pharmaceutical companies, as are separate shots for RSV, a respiratory disease especially dangerous to young children and older adults. So, combined with the COVID-19 vaccine, that makes three jabs that many Americans should receive this fall if advised to do so by their doctors.

No one likes shots, and we understand that having to get three shots within a short period is burdensome. But considering the alternative of unnecessary hospitalizations and preventable deaths, the responsible decision should be easy to make.

Meantime, bear in mind that every village has an idiot. This is a political season, with a presidential election looming next year, so be prepared to tune out the nonsense being spewed by the likes of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose famous name has given him an undeserved platform to perpetuate anti-vaccine lies.

Use your head—and your arm—and do the right thing to protect yourself, your loved ones and public health.

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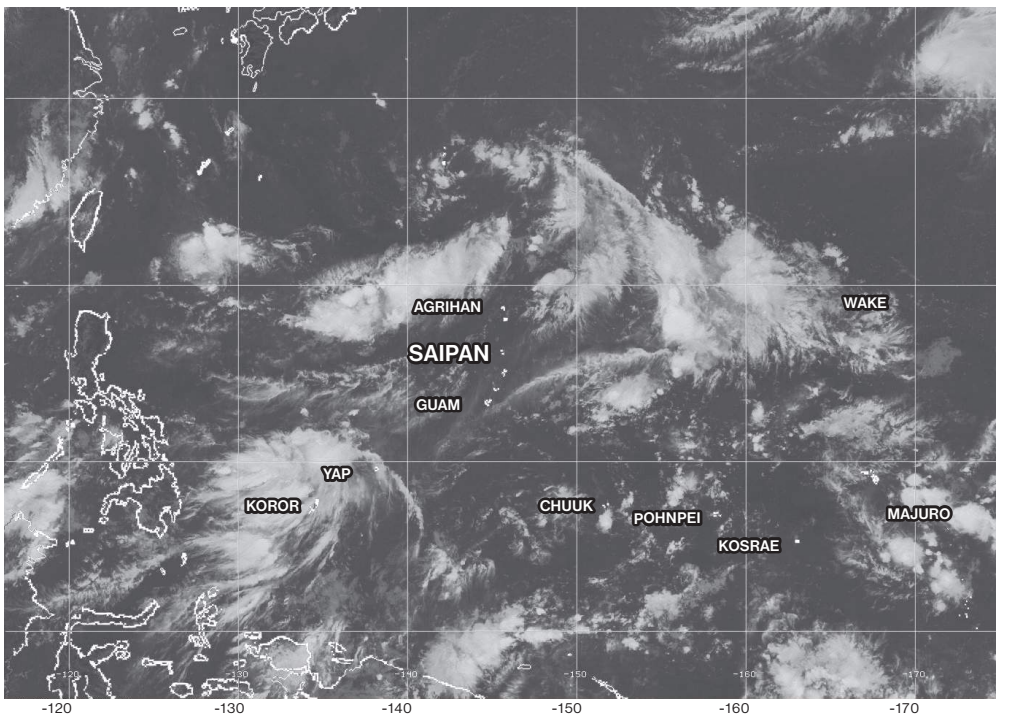
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers. Partly sunny	Scattered showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:03 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly sunny skies with isolated pop-up showers. Light winds. Altimetry shows combined seas at 3 to 4 feet. Ipan buoy is a little lowers at 2 to 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 66°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	90° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Sunny	61° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Thunderstorms	91° / 69°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	81° / 55°
Busan	Showers	84° / 73°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	70° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	94° / 70°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:35 AM	9:37 PM	-
Tuesday	10:23 AM	10:14 PM	-
Wednesday	11:14 AM	10:54 PM	-
Thursday	12:09 PM	11:40 PM	-
Friday	1:08 PM	-	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
4:43 AM	Low Tide	0.81
10:15 AM	High Tide	1.75
4:38 PM	Low Tide	0.68
10:45 PM	High Tide	1.89

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

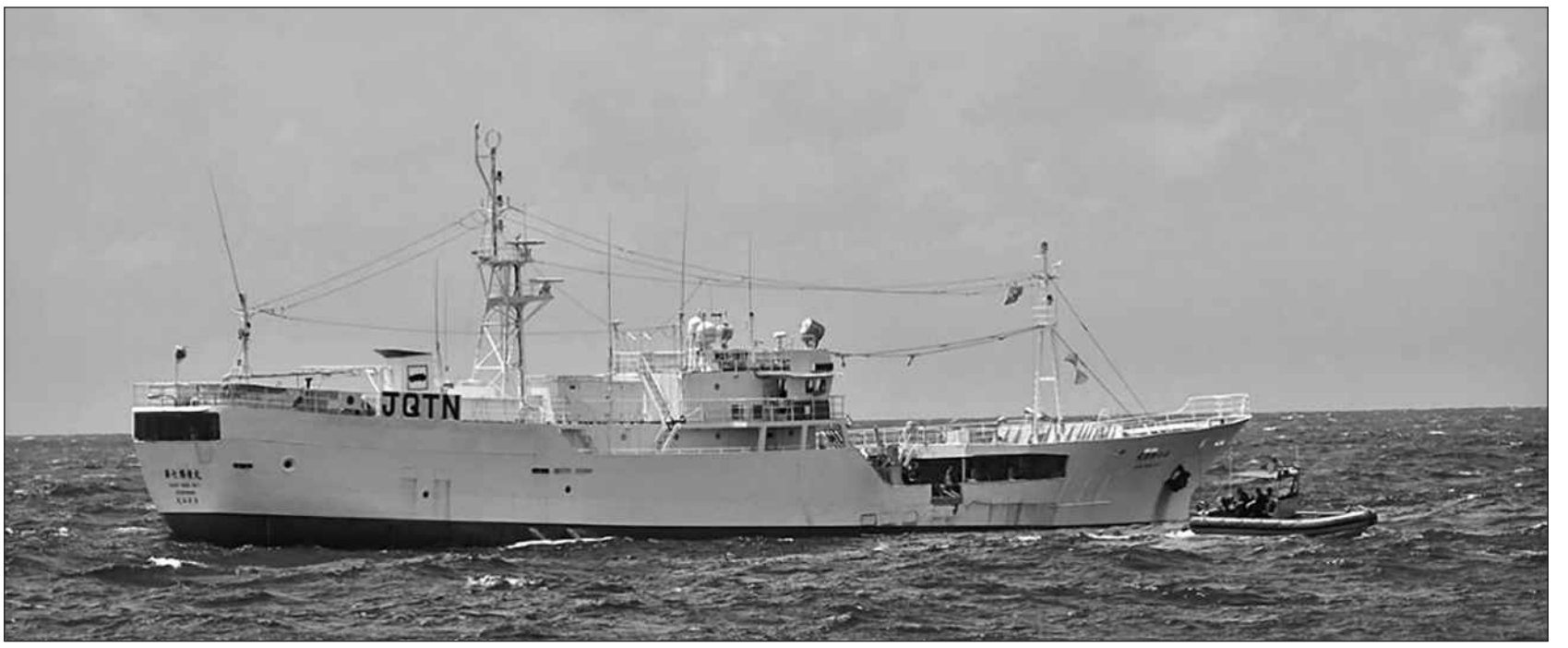
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

USCG cutters bolster partnership strategy in the Pacific

By SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam



U.S. COAST GUARD

U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) crew conducts fisheries boarding on the fishing vessel *Shoei Maru No. 7* under the newly expanded bilateral agreement in late June 2023. The cutter crew was on patrol in the Federated States of Micronesia exclusive economic zone for Operation Rematau.

SANTA RITA, Guam—In a robust display of maritime commitment, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's fast response cutters conducted four patrols over 44 days, enhancing safety and prosperity in the Pacific Islands region while combatting illicit maritime activity, including illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing and the illegal and unsafe transport of passengers.

The crews of USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143), USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139), and USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140):

Conducted seven boardings and five observation reports.

■ Completed over 20 training evolutions.

■ Qualified 18 new shipboard members.

■ Supported the investigation into the transport of 11 people aboard an overloaded vessel transiting to Guam from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on an illegal charter following their rescue by DoD partners.

■ Supported operations such as Operation Blue Pacific, Operation Rematau, Operation Nasse, and Operation Koa Moana.

"Our fast response cutter crews exhibit both efficacy and presence as a consistent and trusted partner in the region. Our Pacific Island Country partners' warmth and regard for the Coast Guard is a testament to the strong connections we have nurtured over the years. It is our commitment to the people of the Pacific Island Countries to protect Oceania and its resources for them from undue strategic competition that would undermine those relationships and destabilize the region," said Cmdr. Greg Sickels, deputy sector commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

Operational achievements and highlights

■ USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (June 21 – July 2 and July 18 – Aug. 3): Enhanced international relations, streamlined boarding processes, qualified new personnel, and improved communication with FSM Maritime Police.

■ USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (July 3 — 16): Strengthened connection with CNMI, ensured maritime law enforcement presence in less patrolled areas, and enhanced collaboration with customs and public safety departments.

■ USCGC *Oliver Henry* (July 18 — 23): Increased U.S. presence, enforced fishing regulations, and fostered crew readiness with weapons proficiency and collaboration.

These accomplishments underscore the U.S. Coast Guard's pivotal role in promoting maritime governance, ensuring good relations, and fostering strategic competition in the Pacific Islands region. The U.S. Coast Guard remains a consistent and reliable partner, working collaboratively with Pacific Island Countries to achieve shared objectives and bolster regional security.

Operation Rematau, an integral part of Operation Blue Pacific, is spearheaded by the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. This initiative fosters security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity throughout Oceania. Rematau translates to "people of the deep sea" and embodies the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the people of this region.

The U.S. Coast Guard actively exercises 12 bilateral maritime law enforcement agreements with Pacific Island Countries, reinforcing maritime law enforcement operations and domain awareness in the region. In October 2022, the Service, on behalf of the U.S., signed the first enhanced bilateral agreement with the Federated States of Micronesia. This landmark agreement builds on the existing shiprider arrangement, allowing the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct boardings in the FSM's exclusive economic zone with prior approval working with the FSM National Police, but without an FSM officer physically present. This expansion significantly amplifies the FSM's capacity to protect its sovereignty and resources across an area spanning 1 million square miles and more than 600 islands. Boardings have already been conducted under this enhanced shiprider agreement, attracting interest in similar arrangements from other nations in the area.

In May 2023, the U.S. signed a new bilateral agreement with Papua New Guinea, richly endowed with natural resources like gold, copper, oil, and natural gas. While its formal sector focuses on exports of these commodities, most of its people rely on subsistence agriculture. As of 2020, agriculture, forestry, and fishing reportedly account for nearly 19 percent of PNG's GDP. The agreement aligns with the PNG government's efforts to safeguard their islands and 1.2 million square miles of EEZ, which are vital to their economic well-being. Recently ratified by their parliament, this partnership, at the invitation of the Papua New Guinea government, further extends the reach and impact of maritime law enforcement efforts. In line with this initiative, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter from Guam will be collaborating with Papua New Guinea to enact their new agreement shortly, continuing to foster security and collaboration across the Pacific.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises more than 300 members based in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands spread across shoreside and afloat units committed to maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania. ***(USCG)***

Four sentenced for their roles in advance fee fraud and money laundering scheme

HAGATÑA, Guam—Four defendants were sentenced in the U.S. District Court of Guam for their involvement in an advance fee and money laundering scheme.

Defendants and members of the conspiracy fraudulently obtained approximately $2,600,000 by inducing Guam-based victim-investors to first pay bogus fees and other expenses purportedly associated with a multimillion-dollar inheritance before they could collect any promised funds.

U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour sentenced the following defendants for their respective roles in this criminal scheme:

■ Sally Cruz Roberto, 56, from Santa Rita, Guam, was sentenced to 33 months imprisonment; three years supervised release; ordered to pay $1,030,990 in restitution, a $3,900 mandatory assessment fee, and a $1,030,990 forfeiture money judgment. She was sentenced on Aug. 15, 2023, after a jury found her guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and 38 counts of wire fraud. As part of the conspiracy, Roberto obtained $1,030,990 of victim funds and used her bank account to wire those funds to stateside bank accounts of other co-conspirators.

■ Monique Jones, 49, from Dallas, Texas, was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment; three years supervised release; ordered to pay $578,130 in restitution, a $2,700 mandatory assessment fee, and a $1,111,280 forfeiture money judgment. She was sentenced on Aug. 15, 2023, after a jury found her guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, 25 counts of wire fraud, and conspiracy to launder monetary instruments.

■ Mekayda D. Jones, 24, from Dallas, Texas, was sentenced to 36 months imprisonment; three years supervised release; ordered to pay $387,160 in restitution, a $1,600.00 mandatory assessment fee, and a $801,210 forfeiture money judgment. She was sentenced on Aug. 15, 2023, after a jury found her guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, 14 counts of wire fraud, and conspiracy to launder monetary instruments.

Anderson

As part of the conspiracies, Monique and Mekayda Jones perpetuated the fraud by maintaining bank accounts in the names of shell corporations to receive, withdraw, and transfer victim funds to other co-conspirators in the United States and Nigeria. In exchange, they kept at least 10% of victim funds that flowed into bank accounts they controlled.

■ Okechukwu F. Iwuji, 38, a Nigerian citizen, who previously resided in Orlando, Florida, was sentenced to 45 months imprisonment; three years supervised release; ordered to pay $475,710 in restitution, a $100 mandatory assessment fee, and a $475,710 forfeiture money judgment. He was sentenced on Aug. 17, 2023, after previously pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud. As part of the conspiracy, Iwuji obtained at least $475,710 of victim funds from Roberto and other co-conspirators and transferred some funds to third party-Nigerian bank accounts.

"This far-ranging conspiracy preyed on 60 victims, nearly all of whom live in Guam," said Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. "These scams are difficult to investigate and prosecute due to the interstate and transnational nature of the criminal activity. Our success in this matter is the result of a team effort across multiple jurisdictions, with outstanding leadership by prosecutor David. We will continue to pursue the collection of restitution for those harmed by the defendants' conduct. The public must remain vigilant against this type of fraud."

"This sentence should make the public aware that these types of advanced fee, associated with inheritance scams, will be investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," said FBI special agent in charge Steven Merrill. "If it is too good to be true, it probably is. If you feel you have been scammed, please contact the FBI at (800) 225-5324 (CALL-FBI) or report it to tips.fbi.gov."

The investigation was led by the FBI Guam Resident Agency with the assistance of FBI field offices in Dallas and Atlanta; Homeland Security Investigations in Orlando, Florida; the U.S. Secret Service in Dallas; and the Guam Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Marivic David, first assistant U.S. Attorney and Criminal Chief in the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

Business

Bank of Guam reopens Tamuning branch

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is taking banking to a whole new level with the re-opening of its Tamuning Branch, unveiling a glimpse into its Branch of the Future design.

Located in the ITC building, the Tamuning Branch reopened last Friday, Aug. 18 at 9am. The newly renovated branch is open Monday through Friday, from 9am to 4pm.

» Revealing first look in to 'Branch of the Future' model

"The world is changing, and our customers and their banking needs are changing too. Our "Branch of the Future" is all that a customer could expect from a modern bank with a continued emphasis on personalized service. In line with the vision set by our founder over 50 years ago, Bank of Guam continues to be on the cutting edge of banking technology and design without compromising on the Håfa Adai spirit that we are known for," said Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, president and chief executive officer.

"Two years ago, we hinted at The Start of Something New, symbolizing a bold leap into our digital transformation. Over this time, we've dedicated a significant effort to truly understand the customer journey. Our Tamuning Branch serves as a reflection of this journey, embracing the changing needs of our customers, redefining convenience and accessibility, ensuring that banking moves just as you do," said Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

BOG

Bank of Guam's "Branch of the Future" model is all that a customer could expect from a modern bank with a continued emphasis on personalized service.

BOG

Bank of Guam's Tamuning Branch features a sleek design and fresh layout, focusing on self-service and leading-edge technology.

Welcome to the all-new Tamuning Branch—featuring a sleek design and fresh layout, focusing on self-service and leading-edge technology. Here's a peek into the Branch of the Future and its key features:

■ Digital-First Banking: A warm welcome awaits you from the Lobby Manager. With the help of our Familia Ambassadors, Bank of Guam's universal bankers, you can learn first-hand how to get the most out of the Bank's digital banking tools.

■ Appointment scheduling: Embrace convenience with a simple QR code scan and digital sign-in for your appointments and banking needs. After you sign in, relax or explore nearby businesses until you receive a notification, either via SMS text or email, for your appointment.

■ More full function ATMs: Not one or two, but three full function ATMs! Experience 24/7 banking using the two ATMs in our in-branch vestibule or at our new drive-thru ATM. Deposit your checks with same-day funds availability during branch hours. With our full function ATMs, you can also deposit cash and choose your denominations for cash withdrawals. Same-day funds availability applies for Bank of Guam checks.

■ Living wall: A dynamic expression of our commitment, our living wall breathes life into the new space while reaffirming our responsibility towards a more sustainable future.

■ Community meeting room: Open for non-profit organizations to facilitate collaboration, innovation, and connections. As The People's Bank, we're dedicated to supporting the greater good, and this room exemplifies our commitment.

■ Secure Wi-Fi: Access the Bank's online services by signing into Bank of Guam's secure Wi-Fi network

■ Local artistry: Featuring murals by Joshua Agerstrand in branch and Opake at our drive-up ATM

The Tamuning branch first opened on Nov, 3, 1978, and temporarily closed during the pandemic as renovations were underway and more digital technology incorporated in the design. The new branch has doubled its space and now measures at 3,986 square feet of space. ***(PR)***

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Jason Joseph Basa Reyes

Lovingly known as "Jay"

Born to Life: June 13, 1979
Called to Eternal Rest: August 17, 2023

In his new life, he now joins his
Mother: †Francisca Basa
Brother: †Jerry Jesse B. Reyes
Grandparents: †Nicolas Blas Reyes
†Ignacia Agulto Reyes
†Eulogio Aldan
†Manuel Santos Sablan
†Maria Basa Sablan

He will live forever in the hearts of his:
Father: Jesus A. Reyes
Step-mom: Eloisa I. Reyes
Wife: Jolynn J. Castro Reyes
Children:
Jaylene Ka'enaloni Serrano Reyes
Zakariahs Jordon Serrano Reyes/ Dora Palacios (Dreama)
Jason Joseph Castro Reyes
Siblings:
Jesse Jerry B. Reyes and children
†Jerry Jesse B. Reyes / Joycelyn Techur and children
Jeremy Jane B. Reyes/ Dewayne I. Sablan and children
Ignacia Marie B. Reyes/ Bradley C. Babauta and children
Patrick C. Reyes and Jerica T. Pialur
Jessielyn I. Reyes
Josh I. Reyes

He will be dearly missed by numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Daily masses of intentions are offered at 6:00 pm at San Jose Church.

Our beloved †Jason will be with us for the last time on Saturday, August 26, 2023. †Jason will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Kristo Rai Church at 7:35 am. Responso Service, Holy Rosary, and Public Viewing will follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by Interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

Your prayers, presence, and thoughts are sincerely appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Oloomwaay – Thank You

Jolynn J. Castro Reyes and Children / Jesus A. Reyes, and Family

In Loving Memory of

†Victor Santos Hocog

June 6, 1958 - August 16, 2023

Predeceased by:

Paternal grandparents:
†Victor Mesngon Hocog & +Josepha Toves Hocog

Maternal grandparents:
†Jose SM. Santos & Luise Concepcion Santos Ayuyu ("Bazinero")

Father:
†Luis Toves Hocog

Sister:
† Rosaline Santos Hocog

Brother:
†Bernol Santos Hocog

Brothers-in-law:
†Vicente L. Cruz
†Roque D. Mesa

Nieces and Nephews:
†Luis Christopher Hocog
(†Angel Samiliano, †Dannon Luis Samiliano)
†Ricky Ryan Mesa

Survived by:

Mother:
Lourdes Santos Hocog

Siblings/In-laws:
Linda Hocog Cruz
Lillian Hocog Mesa
Rosalina Santos Hocog
Josepha Santos Hocog
Jose Luis Santos Hocog/Yvette Leilani Hocog
Jeffrey Santos Hocog
Lucy Ann Santos Hocog
Norma Jean Santos Hocog
Teddy Santos Hocog/Marie U. Hocog

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 am at Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

On **Thursday, August 24, 2023,** holy rosary will be recited at **7:00 am at CHCC Morgue.** Responso will be held at **8:00 am** at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Funeral mass will be held at **10:00 am** followed by burial services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Ginen y Familia.

Nation

Hope is hard to let go after Maui fire

» As odds wane over reuniting with still-missing loved ones

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP)—The days of waiting have become harder and harder as the odds grow longer and longer, but Kevin Baclig remains undeterred in his search for his wife and her parents, missing since Aug. 8 when a wildfire engulfed and flattened the Hawaiian town of Lahaina.

He has gone looking from one shelter to another, hoping strangers might recognize the faces on the flyers he brings with him. Baclig, 30, has driven back and forth to Lahaina, desperately scouting for anything that might lead him to his wife, Angelica, and her parents, Joel and Adela Villegas. Six other relatives who lived next door also remain unaccounted for.

"I'm not going to give up until I see them," he said. "Of course I'm hoping to find them alive. ... What else can I do?"

Even as he tries to sound optimistic, his voice is subdued.

"I've been searching and searching — in Lahaina, everywhere," Baclig said, speaking in Ilocano, a dialect of the northern Philippines.

The blaze took scores of lives and destroyed hundreds of homes, including the house Baclig's family bought three years ago on Kopili Street, about a 15-minute walk to historic Front Street, once a bustling tourist center but now a bleak avenue of flattened buildings lined with charred vehicles.

The remains of 114 people have been found, most of them yet to be identified. Hawaii Gov. Josh Green has said the death toll will likely rise in the days to come as the painstaking search for remains continues in the heaps of rubble and ash in Lahaina, a seaside community of 12,000 and a tourist hotspot on Maui.

Officials acknowledge they don't have a firm number on the missing. Many initially listed as unaccounted for have since been located.

Crews have sifted through about 60% of the fire zone, FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell said Saturday.

"We are making progress, and we will continue to be with the people of Hawaii every step of the way," Criswell said. The agency approved nearly $7 million to aid more than 2,000 households, including $3 million in rental assistance.

More than 1,000 federal personnel are on Maui, nearly half of whom are assigned to help in the search for remains, the White House said.

A spokesperson for Maui County, Mahina Martin, said Saturday that authorities involved in the search effort were working to compile a list of the missing and continued to vet the information being gathered.

The only publicly available list has been compiled by good Samaritans hoping to link family with loved ones, but isn't always up-to-date.

President Joe Biden is scheduled to visit Lahaina on Monday to survey the devastation and meet with survivors and local officials.

Earlier this week, Police Chief John Pelletier said authorities would do their best to track down the missing. "But I can't promise that we're going to get them all," he said.

On the day before the fire, Po'omaika'i Estores-Losano, a 28-year-old father of two, wished aloha to his ohana, the Hawaiian word for family. "Another beautiful day in Hawaii," he wrote on Facebook, ending his post by urging his circle to "have fun, enjoy," and to never be "unhappy and grumpy."

He was among the scores still missing Saturday. His family has scoured the island looking for him, checking hospitals and shelters. Without a car, Estores-Losano would have had to outrun the fire and smoke.

"We don't want him to think we stopped looking for him," said Ku'ulei Barut, who last spoke to her brother the day before he went missing.

His mother, Leona Castillo, wants to hang on to the possibility that her son is still alive, but she knows she may have to face a reality she's not yet ready to accept. Last week, as the talk of body counts intensified, she got herself swabbed for DNA.

Local gov'ts are spending billions of COVID relief funds, but some reporting few specifics

By DAVID A. LIEB and KAVISH HARJAI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joplin officials say they have big plans for $13.8 million of pandemic relief funds the tornado-ravaged southwestern Missouri city received under a two-year-old federal law. Yet the latest federal records show none of the money has been spent—or even budgeted.

In fact, about 6,300 cities and counties—nearly 1 in 4 nationwide—reported no expenditures as of this spring, according to an Associated Press analysis of data released by the U.S. Treasury Department. About 5,100 of those listed no projects—either planned or underway.

So what gives? Is the money not needed? Are cities just sitting on it?

Local and federal officials told the AP in interviews that the publicly available data is misleading—pockmarked by differing interpretations over exactly what must be reported, lagging in timeliness and failing to account for some preliminary planning. Critics contend it's an indication of a flawed pandemic response.

Federal officials estimate that governments have spending commitments for more than 80% of the funds, even if that's hard to tell from their reporting requirements.

Joplin, for example, plans to spend its pandemic aid on housing projects, high-speed internet, streets, a bicycle park, public safety equipment and more. The City Council approved the plan last month. But it won't show up on federal reports until October.

The city, which was devastated in 2011 by one of deadliest tornadoes in U.S. history, took a deliberate approach with its pandemic aid to develop "really transformational projects," said Leslie Haase, the city's finance director.

Over the past couple years, it leveraged the pandemic aid to win millions of additional dollars of state grants. With the combined funds, it plans to relaunch an expired post-tornado program that helps people make down-payments on homes. The city also plans to spend millions of dollars to repair or demolish old houses.

"I think by the time 2026 rolls around, Joplin will be a better community," Haase said.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
†Vivian Koyama Pangelinan-Cruz
Lovingly known as Vi
08/20/1949 ~ 08/02/2023 (Hawaii)
~ 08/03/2023 (Saipan)
In her new home, †Vivian will be greeted and reunited with her:
Spouse of 29 years: †Joaquin Benavente Cruz
Parents: †Henry Sablan Pangelinan, Sr.
†Monica (Hideko) Koyama Pangelinan
Parents In-Law: †Jose Duenas Cruz
†Virginia Benavente Cruz
Siblings: †Frederick K. Pangelinan
†Jose K. Pangelinan
†Damiana K. Pangelinan
Her memories will forever be in the hearts of her:
Children and their families:
Doreen M. & Joseph A. Tudela (Joseph & Rhine; Desiree & David [David, Daena, Dylan, and Damien])
Gary P. Manglona (Jerome & Liz [Ryuu, Amaiya, Kaylee & Athen]; Nikita & Kayne [Kayne, Jr. and Khya])
Daisy M. & Edwin K. Propst (Kiana, Devin, Kaden & Logan)
Mona P. Manglona (Tyarah & Ray [Rayarah]; Tristin & Jovilyn; Sierra & Michael III)
Step-Children:
†Vincent & †Elsie C. Fejeran and family
Frances A. & Dominick Didasa and family
Elaine A. & Fred Butts
Joey R. & Geraldine T. Cruz and family
Jack R. & Telma F. Cruz and family
Roland R. Cruz and family
Virginia R. Cruz & Jose Villagomez and family
Zack R. Cruz
Siblings and In-Laws:
†Frederick K. & Leonora D. Pangelinan and family
†Joseph K. & Maria A. Pangelinan and family
Ernesta P. & †Thomas B. Rueb and family
Mariano K. Pangelinan and family
Benny K. & Rosemary D. Pangelinan and family
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan and family
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan and family
Henry K. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan and family
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan and family
George K. Pangelinan and family
Evelyn P. Pangelinan and family
Nida Pangelinan and family
Peter Pangelinan and family
Cynthia Pangelinan and family
Glenn M. Pangelinan and family
James M. Pangelinan and family
Michelle M. Pangelinan and family
Evonne M. Pangelinan and family
In-Laws:
Joseph B. & Dolores Cruz and family
Sisters at Heart:
Ena P. Villagomez, Mina M. Benavente, Elsa P. Villagomez, Evelyn P. Calvo and †Dolores S. Moore
Family Caretakers:
Lilia D. Ordonez, Maria Arlene Q. Romaguera, Sol Quiachon and Cora Quiachon
†Vivian is also survived by numerous relatives and friends.
Daily mass is being offered at San Jose Church, Monday – Saturday, at 6:00 pm, and Sundays at 9:00 am ending on August 22, 2023.
†Vivian will be with us for the last time on Friday, August 25, 2023. She will be escorted to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am. Responso and recitation of the Holy Rosary will be said followed by visitation and last respects. Mass celebrating her life will begin at 10:30 am. Following the mass, the family will bid a final farewell to †Vivian in an intimate setting.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Domo Arigato Gozaimasu, and Thank you
From the Children and Family

Health & Wellness

MAYO CLINIC Q&A: 5 advances in cancer treatment

By CYNTHIA WEISS
Mayo Clinic News Network

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: In the past year, several family members have been diagnosed with various types of cancer, including leukemia, melanoma, breast cancer and colon cancer. In talking about treatments, it seems as if there is more available today than in the past. Can you share some of the advances in cancer care? What should I know as far as my risk for cancer?

ANSWER: Although the rate of cancer diagnosis has fallen slightly post-COVID-19, cancer remains a common diagnosis in the U.S., affecting almost 2 million people annually. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cancer remains the leading cause of death in the U.S.

The chronic nature of cancer is one of the reasons why there is so much research happening with countless organizations, including Mayo Clinic, which is always identifying and evaluating new treatment options to improve outcomes and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and their families.

Advancements in cancer therapy are increasing survival rates and offering hope for a cure to more people. We are now treating cancer more precisely and with fewer side effects. Here are five innovative cancer treatments that are changing the landscape of cancer.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Cancer remains a common diagnosis in the U.S., affecting almost 2 million people annually. Advancements in cancer therapy are increasing survival rates and offering hope for a cure to more people.

CAR-T cell therapy

Chimeric antigen receptor-T cell therapy (CAR-T) is a relatively new therapy that was first approved in 2017 for the treatment of certain types of lymphoma, leukemia and multiple myeloma. Mayo Clinic was one of the centers that treated people as part of the clinical trial that led to the approval of this treatment.

CAR-T cell therapy uses the power of your immune system to fight your cancer. It involves modifying your immune cells and training them to attack the cancer cells in your body. CAR-T cell therapy is used to treat various conditions including specific types of lymphomas and leukemias, as well as multiple myeloma. With CAR-T cell therapy, about 70% to 80% of people with lymphoma experience remission, meaning their symptoms of cancer are reduced or gone. More studies are underway using CAR-T cell therapies with more diseases and fewer side effects.

Immune checkpoint inhibitors

These therapies enhance your immune system's ability to detect and eliminate cancer cells. The inhibitors stop your body's natural checkpoints from limiting the body's immune response to cancer cells. The first checkpoint inhibitor was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2011 to treat melanoma. Since then, 15 more immune checkpoint inhibitors have been approved to treat over a dozen cancers, including small-cell lung, liver and colorectal cancers.

Minimally invasive surgery

For many people, surgery remains a necessary part of their cancer treatment. Minimally invasive surgery is defined as the use of small incisions and specialized instruments to remove cancer tissue. Since the incisions are smaller than in traditional procedures, minimally invasive surgery is associated with less pain, fewer complications and faster recovery times. In recent years, minimally invasive surgical techniques have evolved further, and some surgeons are even using robotic technology to work more accurately and safely in the body's smallest spaces. Robotic surgery techniques are available for more diseases than ever before.

Personalized cancer vaccines

Similar to vaccines for childhood diseases and other illnesses, cancer vaccines have the potential not only to treat certain cancers but to prevent its recurrence. Several cancer vaccines already are approved to treat melanoma, bladder cancer and prostate cancer, but researchers are incredibly excited about personalized mRNA cancer vaccines. These vaccines would be custom-made for an individual based on the specific genetic features of their tumor. Personalized mRNA cancer vaccines are expected to be accessible within this decade.

Researchers are learning more about how these methods work by studying vaccines, as they can be used to treat cancer and prevent its recurrence. This understanding is paving the way for the potential to vaccinate preventively against some cancers, just as we do with many viral illnesses.

Advances in radiation therapies

For patients with certain types of cancers, radiation therapy often is prescribed as a part of treatment. Many people are familiar with proton beam therapy, which is a highly precise radiation treatment that destroys cancer cells while sparing surrounding healthy tissue. Proton therapy has been found to cause fewer side effects. Though this technology was approved decades ago, refinements continue to improve its usefulness in many tumor types.

The next advancement in radiation therapy is something known as carbon ion therapy. Like proton beam therapy—with its ability to precisely target and destroy cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue—carbon ion therapy is currently used to treat cancers that may be resistant to proton therapy. It is only available at a handful of medical centers in Europe and Asia. Mayo Clinic is building the first carbon ion therapy facility in North America at its campus in Jacksonville, Florida.

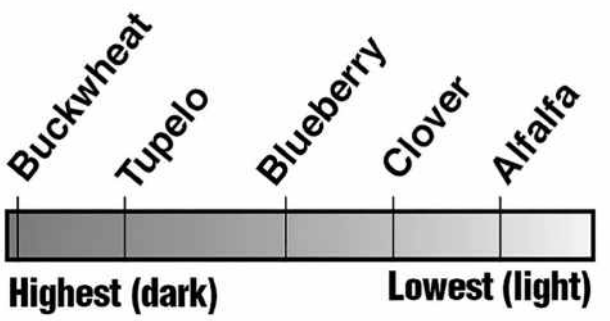
Innovations in cancer therapies are improving health outcomes and curing more cancers. Given the cancer diagnoses in your family, it is important to stay up to date on new innovations and therapies. Seeking out information and resources from a comprehensive cancer center will be valuable as you and your family navigate the treatment and survivorship journey. Your relationship with the family members already diagnosed with cancer will need to be reviewed to help determine your risk for certain cancers. Consider connecting with a genetic counselor who may be able to guide you regarding risk and appropriate screenings.

Healthy Living

Darker honey, more antioxidants

The amount of cell-protecting antioxidants in honey varies depending on the flower species from which it is made.

Source: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, National Honey Board (U.S.), TNS Photo Service



Survey: Americans want weight loss drugs despite high cost

By JULIE APPLEBY, KFF HEALTH NEWS
KFF Health News

Many Americans really want to lose weight—and a new poll shows nearly half of adults would be interested in taking a prescription drug to help them do so.

At the same time, enthusiasm dims sharply if the treatment comes as an injection, if it is not covered by insurance, or if the weight is likely to return after discontinuing treatment, a new nationwide KFF poll found.

Those findings display the enthusiasm for a new generation of pricey weight loss drugs hitting the market and illustrate possible stumbling blocks, as users potentially must deal with weekly self-injections, lack of insurance coverage, and the need to continue the medications indefinitely.

For example, interest dropped to 14% when respondents were asked if they would still consider taking prescription medications if they knew they could regain weight after stopping the drugs.

One way to interpret that finding is "people want to lose a few pounds but don't want to be on a drug for the rest of their life," said Ashley Kirzinger, KFF's director of survey methodology. The monthly poll reached out to 1,327 U.S. adults.

The U.S. represents a large market for drugmakers who want to sell weight loss prescriptions: An estimated 42% of the population is classified as obese, according to a controversial metric known as BMI, or body mass index. In the KFF poll, 61% said they were currently trying to lose weight, although only 4% were taking a prescription medication to do so.

That gap between the 4% taking any kind of prescription weight loss treatment and the number of Americans deemed overweight or obese is the sweet spot drugmakers are targeting for the new drugs, which include several diabetes treatments repurposed as weight loss drugs.

Life & Style

Michael Jackson sexual abuse lawsuits revived by appeals court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California appeals court on Friday revived lawsuits from two men who allege Michael Jackson sexually abused them for years when they were boys.

A three-judge panel from California's 2nd District Court of Appeal found that the lawsuits of Wade Robson and James Safechuck should not have been dismissed by a lower court, and that the men can validly claim that the two Jackson-owned corporations that were named as defendants in the cases had a responsibility to protect them. A new California law that temporarily broadened the scope of sexual abuse cases enabled the appeals court to restore them.

It's the second time the lawsuits—brought by Robson in 2013 and Safechuck the following year—have been brought back after dismissal. The two men became more widely known for telling their stories in the 2019 HBO documentary " Leaving Neverland."

Jackson

A judge who dismissed the suits in 2021 found that the corporations, MJJ Productions Inc. and MJJ Ventures Inc., could not be expected to function like the Boy Scouts or a church where a child in their care could expect their protection. Jackson, who died in 2009, was the sole owner and only shareholder in the companies.

The higher court judges disagreed, writing that "a corporation that facilitates the sexual abuse of children by one of its employees is not excused from an affirmative duty to protect those children merely because it is solely owned by the perpetrator of the abuse."

They added that "it would be perverse to find no duty based on the corporate defendant having only one shareholder. And so we reverse the judgments entered for the corporations."

Jonathan Steinsapir, attorney for the Jackson estate, said they were "disappointed."

"Two distinguished trial judges repeatedly dismissed these cases on numerous occasions over the last decade because the law required it," Steinsapir said in an email to The Associated Press. "We remain fully confident that Michael is innocent of these allegations, which are contrary to all credible evidence and independent corroboration, and which were only first made years after Michael's death by men motivated solely by money."

Vince Finaldi, an attorney for Robson and Safechuck, said in an email that they were "pleased but not surprised" that the court overturned the previous judge's "incorrect rulings in these cases, which were against California law and would have set a dangerous precedent that endangered children throughout state and country. We eagerly look forward to a trial on the merits."

Steinsapir had argued for the defense in July that it does not make sense that employees would be legally required to stop the behavior of their boss.

"It would require low-level employees to confront their supervisor and call them pedophiles," Steinsapir said.

Holly Boyer, another attorney for Robson and Safechuck, countered that the boys "were left alone in this lion's den by the defendant's employees. An affirmative duty to protect and to warn is correct."

Steinsapir said evidence that has been gathered in the cases, which have not reached trial, showed that the parents had no expectation of Jackson's employees to act as monitors.

"They were not looking to Michael Jackson's companies for protection from Michael Jackson," the lawyer argued said.

But in a concurring opinion issued with Friday's decision, one of the panelists, Associate Justice John Shepard Wiley Jr., wrote that "to treat Jackson's wholly-owned instruments as different from Jackson himself is to be mesmerized by abstractions. This is not an alter ego case. This is a same ego case."

The judges did not rule on the truth of the allegations themselves. That will be the subject of a forthcoming jury trial in Los Angeles.

"We trust that the truth will ultimately prevail with Michael's vindication yet again," Steinsapir said Friday.

Robson, now a 40-year-old choreographer, met Jackson when he was 5 years old. He went on to appear in three Jackson music videos.

Ron Cephas Jones, 'This Is Us' actor, dies at 66

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ron Cephas Jones, a veteran stage actor who won two Emmy Awards for his role as a long-lost father who finds redemption on the NBC television drama series "This Is Us," has died at age 66, a representative said Saturday.

Jones' manager, Dan Spilo, said in an emailed statement the actor died "due to a long-standing pulmonary issue."

Jones

"Throughout the course of his career, his warmth, beauty, generosity, kindness and heart were felt by anyone who had the good fortune of knowing him," Spilo said.

Jones had a double lung transplant in 2020 because of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and spent nearly two months in a Los Angeles hospital.

On "This Is Us," Jones played William "Shakespeare" Hill, a biological father whose life is renewed through his relationship with the family of his son Randall Pearson, played by Sterling K. Brown.

"One of the most wonderful people the world has ever seen is no longer with us," Brown said in an Instagram post after Jones' death. "The world is a little less bright. Brother, you are loved. And you will be missed."

Jones played a more central role in the series' early seasons, but appeared in some form in all six seasons of the show, which included time-jumping narratives offering recurring opportunities for its actors even after their characters' deaths.

Jones won Emmys for best guest actor in a drama series in 2018 and 2020 and was nominated for two more.

Vina Morales replaces Lea Salonga in Broadway's 'Here Lies Love'

By TERRY TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As Tony Award winner Lea Salonga prepares to depart the first ever all-Filipino Broadway cast this week, her role will become a revolving door to showcase other well-known talent from the Philippines.

Actor and singer Vina Morales, also beloved in the Philippines, will take over as Aurora Aquino in "Here Lies Love" for a month-long engagement starting Sept. 22.

Producers say they are committed to highlighting the country's "abundance of talent," allowing guest performers a Broadway debut.

"To be able to perform on Broadway is a dream come true for any artist," Morales said in a statement. "I am grateful to 'Coach Lea' Salonga for guiding me along the way."

Morales

Salonga, who has been with the show since previews in June, called her friend Morales "a wonderful addition to our cast."

Her final show will be the matinee Saturday. Another cast member will fill in until Morales' arrival.

Salonga next co-stars with Bernadette Peters in "Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends" at London's Gielgud Theatre starting Sept. 16.

"Here Lies Love" chronicles the rise to power of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and wife Imelda during the 1960s and '70s and the civil unrest that ensued. Musicians David Byrne and Fat Boy Slim wrote the music for the production, which takes on a night club setting for most of the 90-minute show.

The cast also includes Arielle Jacobs, Jose Llana and Conrad Ricamora.

The production marked Salonga's first time playing an actual Filipino character on Broadway. She has led other all-Asian ensembles such as "Allegiance," "Flower Drum Song" and "Miss Saigon," which won her the Tony for best actress in a musical. In a funny coincidence, "Here Lies Love" is in the same theater where "Miss Saigon" ran from 1991-2001.

This has also been Salonga's first time as a Broadway producer. Her co-producers include other entertainers of Filipino descent—singer H.E.R., comedian Jo Koy and Black Eyed Peas' Apl.de.Ap.

Outside of the stage, Salonga is widely known for her vocals in the Disney animated features "Aladdin" and "Mulan."

Tribute to late wife upsets current spouse

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Randall," was a widower when we met. His wife, "Sylvia," had passed away in November 2010. We got married in October 2015. I recently was shocked to discover that Randall has kept Sylvia's Facebook page open, supposedly so his grandchildren can send her messages on her birthday or anytime they feel like it.

Last September, he posted a message that read: "Happy Anniversary. Love you and miss you. 52 years today." (If she were still living, that day would have marked 52 years of marriage.) When I read it, I realized that, in his heart, he still feels married to her. Am I wrong for feeling that way?

ONE OF TWO WIVES

DEAR ONE: I don't think you are wrong, but please understand that some people don't completely get over the death of a loved one, and your husband may be one of them. It's not that unusual, if my Facebook is any example. People post about their departed parents, grandparents and even their pets, and memorial pages on Facebook after a person's demise are not unusual. If you and Randall have a good marriage, I suggest you develop a sense of humor about it. Sylvia is not a threat to you unless you make her one. Knowing that may lighten your load.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I buy pet food from a small local pet shop. (The store does not sell animals, only food and supplies. I support adoption.) I'm a regular customer and have been on a first-name basis with the owner, "Alicia," for several years. When I went to buy my dog's food the other day, she was wearing a scarf to cover her head. She has always had shoulder-length hair. It was obvious that she's ill. (I suspect breast cancer.) I didn't know what to do. I hoped my face did not give me away. I just proceeded as I normally do—made small talk and completed my purchase.

The next time I go there, should I continue to act like I don't notice? Should I ask Alicia if she's ill? I felt uncomfortable pretending not to notice. However, I feel it would be intrusive to say something. Please advise.

ANIMAL LOVER IN FLORIDA

DEAR ANIMAL LOVER: If Alicia wants to discuss her medical condition with you, she will allude to it. If she does, listen to her and offer a supportive comment. Many people seem unable to restrain themselves from asking inappropriate questions, however well-intentioned. Among them are likely some of her other customers. Don't be one of them.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We are a middle-aged couple who live together. I have been with "Jack" for seven years, and during those seven years, he held down one job for only three months and then quit. I love him, but I don't believe the feeling is mutual if he can't hold down a job and keep it. He never goes anywhere with me. Jack is a recluse. What should I do? Should I keep him or tell him it's time to pack up and leave?

FINALLY FED UP IN OHIO

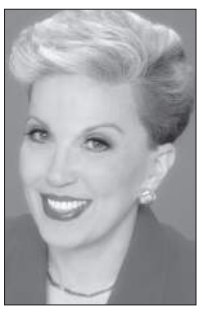
DEAR FINALLY FED UP: I don't know Jack, and you have not listed even one of his virtues. Unless your idea of a happy future is supporting a recluse who refuses to hold a steady job, it's time to sing, "Hit the road, Jack!"

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

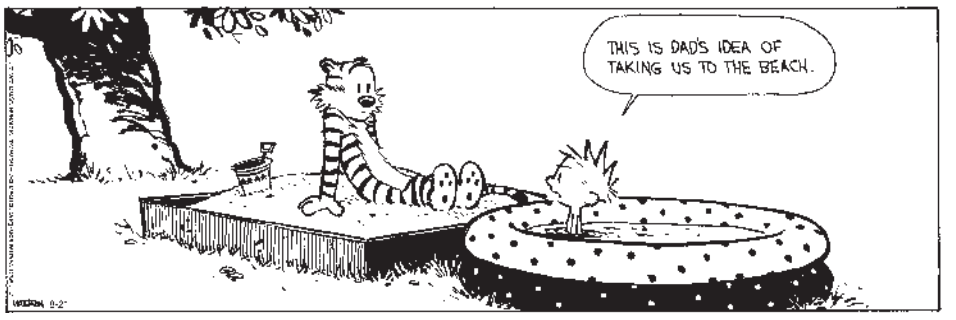


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

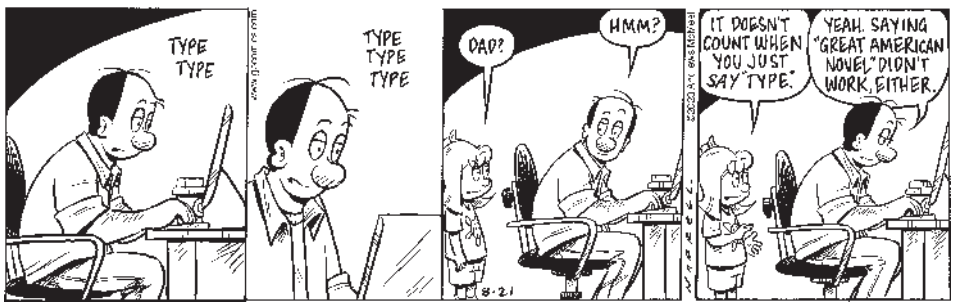


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

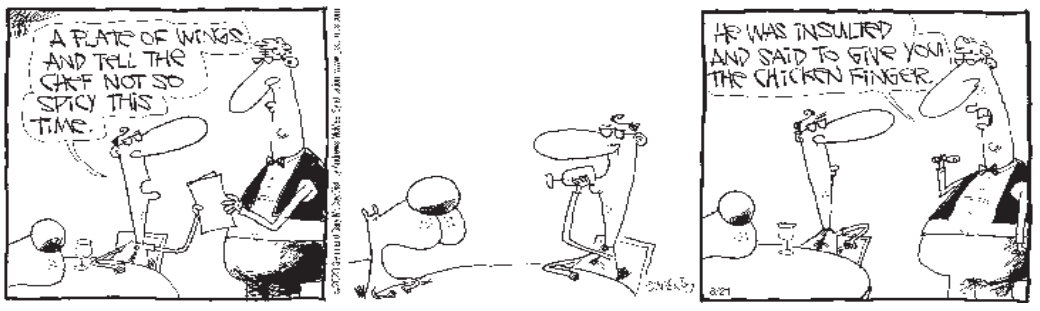
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ages and ages
4 Senate broadcaster
9 Blubber
12 Science room
13 Stag
14 Genetic letters
15 Parts of a whole
17 Pac. counterpart
18 British ref. work
19 Like some cuisine
21 Prior to
24 Power co. supply
25 USPS delivery
26 Mexican Mrs.
28 Actress Slezak
31 Russian river
33 Secret agent
35 Unrepaired
36 Pay
38 Dawn goddess
40 LPs' successors
41 Messes up
43 Maximum
45 Aloha State
47 "The Matrix" hero
48 Ab — (from the start)
49 Scent
54 Knightly address
55 Flood protection
56 Mork's planet
57 Chiding sound
58 January, to Juana
59 Eggy quaff

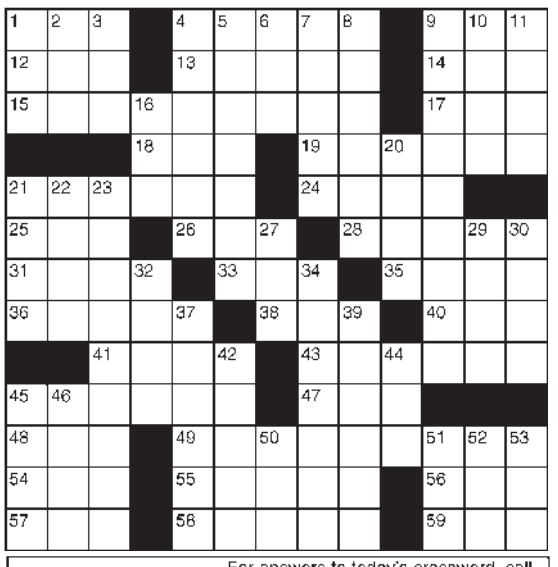
DOWN

1 Seasonal helper
2 Rowboat need
3 Cagers' gp.
4 Supplies food for
5 Small burgers
6 Cutesy-
7 A year in Provence
8 Get snug
9 Spanish painter Goya
10 Con
11 Body powder
16 Bill's partner
20 Wife of Zeus
21 Fuzzy image
22 To be, in Arles
23 Basic structure
27 Mimic
29 Children
30 Celeb's aide
32 Turkish currency
34 Born later (than)
37 Tiny amount
39 Sound system
42 Temptress
44 Extinct New Zealander
45 Party giver
46 Alamo rival
50 St. crosser
51 Sine qua —
52 — -Magnon
53 Heart chart (Abbr.)

Solution time: 21 mins.

G	A	I		S	A	S	S		A	B	F	I
E	M	C		U	L	T	A		R	I	T	E
L	O	W	S	P	E	E	D		E	B	A	N
		G	E	E		P	I	C	A	S	S	O
H	A	R	A	R	E		E	R	R			
A	R	A		B	O	Y		Y	U	M	M	Y
M	M	D	C		N	E	A		G	O	Y	A
M	Y	E	R	S		I	H	Y		O	H	L
			O	I	C		C	A	I	N	A	L
N	O	T	S	E	A	T		K	E	G		
E	M	U	S		W	O	R	K	F	L	O	W
M	I	T	F		F	R	N	F		O	R	T
S	T	U	D		D	E	A	D		W	E	S

Last Friday's Answer



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Panettiere, 34; Usain Bolt, 37; Carrie-Anne Moss, 56; Kim Cattrall, 67.

Happy Birthday: Remain true to yourself. Don't venture down a path for the wrong reason. Concentrate on being your best self and taking responsibility for your life and happiness. Stay centered, regardless of the changes others make, and make your health and well-being your priorities. Don't be fooled by appearances or bad information; get the facts, follow your heart and avoid overindulgence. Your numbers are 5, 17, 21, 26, 34, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be secretive regarding the changes you want to enforce. Take care of essential details yourself, and you'll maintain control over your costs and results. Personal gain is apparent if you follow the rules and take the path that suits your needs. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Outside interference will offer temptation that's difficult to resist. Remove yourself from unstable situations. Think your plans through from beginning to end and act on your behalf, and you'll get the results you desire. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put enough time and effort into preparation and execute your plans with finesse. Don't let overthinking lead to mistakes or doubts. Someone will be quick to interfere with your goals. Do what's best for you, not what others want. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Get the facts. Refuse to let your emotions lead you astray. Joint ventures or overspending will leave you juggling your responsibilities and budget. Be inventive, and you'll come up with a plan that is unique and cost-efficient. Formulate a plan and act. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Agree only to changes that benefit you. Getting involved in someone's dilemma will cost you. Set boundaries and limit spending. Call the shots instead of letting others dictate what you can and cannot pursue. Say no to pressure tactics and manipulative individuals. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Share your thoughts, listen to reason and adjust your plans to ensure success. Your dedication and drive will make others take note; they will respect you for your insight. Trust your instincts and do what's best for you. A partnership looks promising. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Call on those who have something to offer. Work with people who understand your agenda and support your vision. The bonds you form today will encourage you to deep-six what's lost its purpose and focus on what's important to you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Realistic expectations will make your dream spectacular. Let your imagination run wild but know when to pull in the reins and cap your expenses. A positive change will have a powerful impact on your future. Dedication and discipline will pave the way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Learn from an expert, not a wannabe. Develop a unique style without jeopardizing the result. Don't lose sight of your intentions or the detail that will make the difference between satisfactory and exceptional. Personal gain is apparent and will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Choose function over fretting. Control emotions, keep your mind alert and make actions decisive. Simplicity and moderation will offset taking on too much physically and financially. Adjust your life to lower stress and encourage peace of mind. Set boundaries and let go of dead weight. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Set high standards and don't budge. Don't expect others to follow your lead. Protect your assets, possessions and peace of mind from risky or wasteful situations. Let charm guide you and use intelligence. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stand your ground, don't buy into other people's demands, check your ego at the door when entering a debate and protect your reputation with honesty and integrity. Don't follow others; take the path that suits you best. Keep money and documents somewhere safe. ✪✪✪✪

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	8		2	3	
		8	3		9		6	4
		4	6			7		9
6		7	9			4	2	1
2	4		7	1		8		
					6			
	6	5	8					3
3	8				4		7	
7			5		3	6	4	8

Difficulty: ★ 8/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	2	9	8	4	5	7	1	6
4	8	6	7	1	2	3	9	5
5	7	1	6	3	9	8	2	4
8	4	5	2	6	3	9	7	1
9	3	2	1	7	4	6	5	8
1	6	7	5	9	8	4	3	2
7	5	3	4	2	6	1	8	9
6	9	8	3	5	1	2	4	7
2	1	4	9	8	7	5	6	3

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/21

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

OVERALLS **Solution: 8 letters**

S	S	D	E	T	L	E	B	L	O	U	S	E	Y	W
T	T	P	I	L	S	A	S	J	E	A	N	S	D	O
N	Y	O	D	H	A	B	U	T	T	O	N	S	N	R
U	L	I	O	P	U	M	P	S	R	S	I	Z	E	K
H	E	R	O	B	P	N	R	W	E	A	R	P	R	T
E	T	E	H	S	S	T	B	O	L	O	P	F	T	S
S	K	O	U	F	R	R	S	M	F	I	A	S	A	T
G	N	I	L	I	A	S	E	P	Z	R	M	N	M	N
R	T	O	H	C	A	C	D	D	M	I	D	S	R	A
S	W	S	E	F	H	I	R	I	N	A	N	O	O	P
T	T	S	E	A	V	E	N	E	L	E	C	N	F	T
N	R	T	N	I	S	G	D	S	N	O	P	E	I	A
I	Y	I	N	S	S	K	I	I	N	G	S	S	N	E
R	C	G	K	L	I	S	L	L	I	W	T	I	U	W
P	K	I	D	S	S	S	E	L	E	V	E	E	L	S

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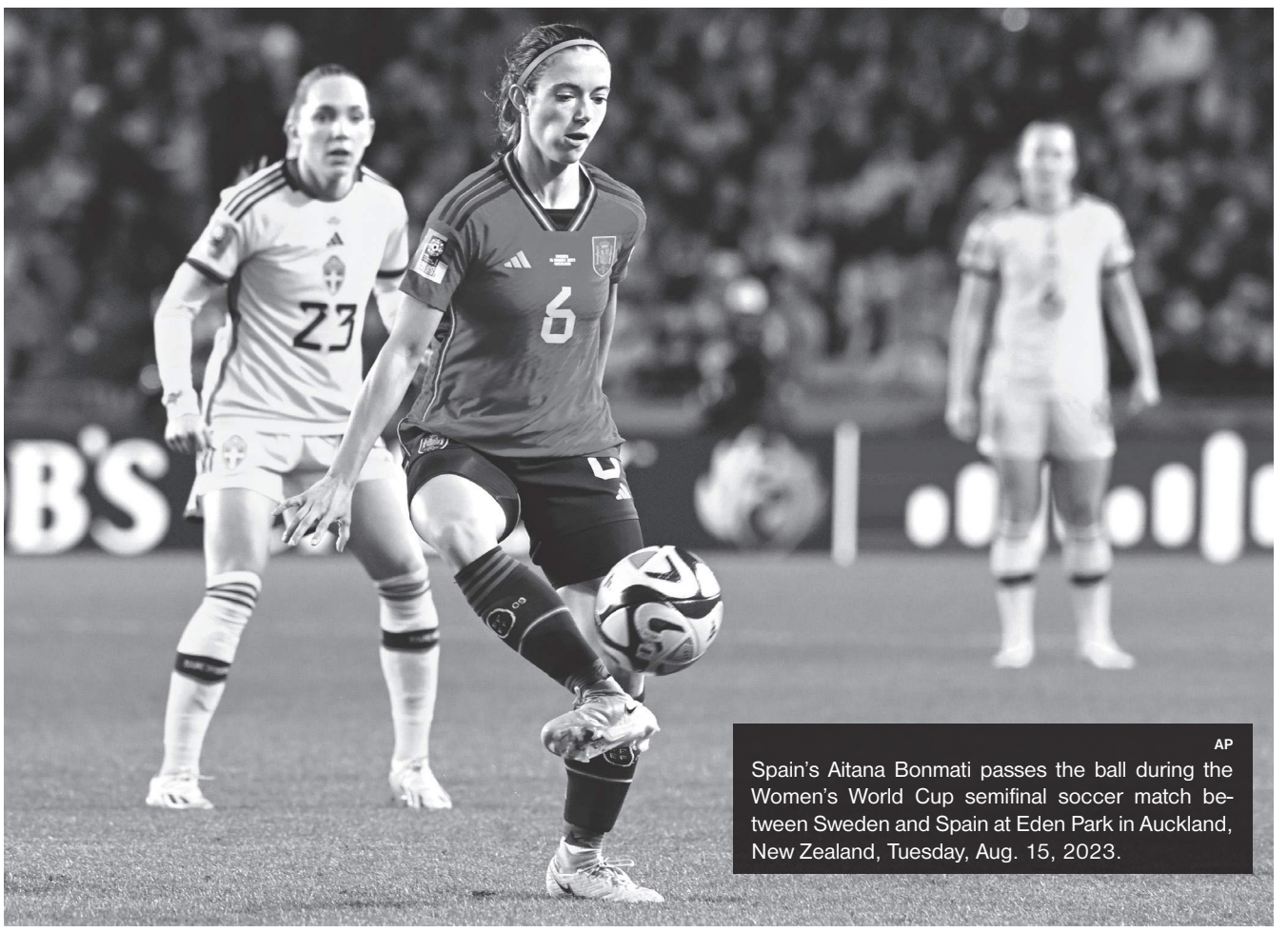
Belted, Blouse, Boots, Braces, Buttons, Camps, Cloth, Denim, Diving, Dress, Farming, Flow, Formal, Hike, Hoodie, Hunt, Jeans, Jumpsuit, Kids, Linen, Mechanic, Onesie, Polo, Prints, Pumps, Safety, Sailing, Sandals, Shorts, Silk, Size, Skiing, Skirt, Sleeveless, Solids, Straps, Style, Suspenders, Sweatpants, Trendy, T-hhirt, Twill, Uniform, Wear, Work, Zipper

Last Saturday's Answer: Childhood

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

BUILDING ON BARCELONA'S SUCCESS

Spain is playing first Women's World Cup final against England



AP

Spain's Aitana Bonmati passes the ball during the Women's World Cup semifinal soccer match between Sweden and Spain at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023.

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—If those precise passes that untangle defenses and the attacks coming from all angles by first-time Women's World Cup finalist Spain look familiar, there is good reason.

The Spanish squad is built on a core of Barcelona players who have triumphed with their club and are now one step from the ultimate prize when they face England on Sunday in Sydney.

Nine Barcelona players, including two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas, attacking midfielder Aitana Bonmatí and defensive leader Irene Paredes, are among the key players for Spain.

The club's influence also extends to the England team, which features Barcelona players Lucy Bronze and Keira Walsh.

"Some of us are very lucky, we've won two Champions Leagues with Barcelona," Bonmatí said after beating Sweden 2-1 in the semifinals.

Barcelona's women's team has played in front of record crowds exceeding 90,000, Bonmati added, "but playing a World Cup final in front of 75,000, it will be crazy."

"I can't believe it's going to happen. Am I in a dream?"

This surprising run by a generation of women who started their careers with few of the advantages of their male counterparts has ended up on a similar path when it comes to taking Spain to the top.

Just as Spain's 2010 World Cup champion team included seven Barcelona members—led by Andrés Iniesta, Xavi Hernández and Carles Puyol—and coincided with the club's best years, the rise of the national women's team comes after Barcelona's women established themselves as one of Europe's elite teams.

Barcelona's women's team has reached four of the last five Champions League finals, winning two, including a 3-2 comeback over Wolfsburg in June. It has also won four consecutive Spanish league titles. This growth came a decade after Barcelona started seriously investing in its women team.

"You only have to look back five or 10 years, the change is incredible," Putellas said. "When there has been a bit of investment, or federations and certain clubs have provided greater support, we have seen radical change."

Similar to those great "tiki-taka" sides of Iniesta and Xavi, Spain's women also dominate possession, press quickly to recover lost balls in opposing territory, and like to dictate the pace. Spain leads the tournament in passing accuracy (84%), right in front of England (83%), according to OPTA Analyst statistics.

As well as Putellas and Bonmatí, Barcelona has provided 19-year-old winger Salma Paralluelo, a player who has given Spain a much more versatile attack. Her goals were key to beating the Netherlands 2-1 in the quarterfinals and to beating Sweden.

In that group of Barcelona-trained players could also go Pachuca forward Jenni Hermoso, who had two stints with Barcelona and helped them win their first European Cup in 2019.

Spain leads the tournament with 17 goals, to 13 for England. They have spread the scoring around: Bonmatí, Hermoso and Alba Redondo each have three.

Spain coach Jorge Vilda is also steeped in Barcelona's tactics. Vilda's father was a physical trainer for Barcelona's men's team under Johan Cruyff. The son declares himself a follower of the passing attack that Cruyff made the hallmark style of its teams.

As a child, Vilda trained at Barcelona's La Masia academy at the same time as Xavi, the midfielder who coaches Barcelona's men. He has spent most of his career inside the Spanish federation, first leading its youth squads before taking over the senior women's team in 2015 following a player revolt against his predecessor.

"We tell the players who come (to the national teams) for the first time when they are 13, 14 years old about how they need to apply pressure, how they must keep control of the ball and attack," Vilda told Spanish newspaper El País in a recent interview. "And even though I have absorbed things from different coaches, like Cruyff, (José) Mourinho, (Jupp) Heynckes, (Luis) Aragonés, (Vicente) del Bosque, (Julen) Lopetegui or Luis Enrique, I am clearly influenced by Barcelona's possession-based style and the years I spent at the club."

England women's team unites fans as once-ignored squad eyes nation's first World Cup title since '66

LONDON (AP)—It's easy to understand why Gail Newsham can't stop grinning as she prepares for England's soccer team to play in the final of the Women's World Cup.

Newsham, 70, grew up at a time when women in England were banned from the sport—called football here—and helped lead a resurgence in the game once those restrictions were lifted. Now she's getting ready to watch Sunday's game against Spain on TV and hoping to see her team bring home the world championship.

"I'll be wearing my shirt, I'll be having a sausage roll and a glass of bubbles," Newsham said, already sporting her blue England jersey. "That's what I've done every match, so I'm going to do it again on Sunday and just, you know, cheer the girls on."

She won't be alone.

When the Lionesses take to the field, they will be backed by hordes of girls rooting for their heroes, mothers and grandmothers celebrating the progress that has been made since they were denied a chance to play the game. They and rabid male and female fans from all backgrounds hope this football-mad nation can finally win a World Cup after 57 years of frustration. England's only World Cup title came in 1966 when the men won.

If last year's European Women's Championship final is any indication, much of the nation will be watching. More than 23 million people, or about 42% of the population, tuned in to see England beat Germany that day. Prince William will be watching the final, too. He posted a video on social media apologizing for his inability to attend, and wishing the team well. His daughter, Princess Charlotte, 8, sat beside him with a ball on her lap and chimed in "Good Luck Lionesses!"

Once again this summer, the success of 23 young English women and their Dutch coach has been a bit of good news in a nation struggling under the weight of crippling inflation, a health service in crisis and seemingly endless political squabbling.

Newspaper front pages were filled with pictures of England players Lauren Hemp and Alessia Russo after they helped power the team to a 3-1 victory over Australia in Wednesday's semifinal.

"I feel like the Lionesses give us hope — to all of us, boys and girls, women and men," said Huda Jawad, a feminist and member of a fan group known as the Three Hijabis for their traditional Muslim headscarves. The team provides "something to look forward to and to be proud of and to show that actually football, like society, can be joyous, it can be equal, it can be hopeful, that we can have community and friendship and solidarity."

That hasn't always been the story of English football.

In a nation that sees itself as the birthplace of the world's most popular sport, people expect to win. But the men's national team has disappointed fans at every major tournament following 1966.

That frustration boiled over in 2021 when England's men lost to Italy in the final of the European Championship at Wembley Stadium in London. Vandalism and clashes with police after the game led to dozens of arrests, and three Black players were bombarded with racist abuse after missing their shots in the penalty shootout that ended the contest.

But in 2022, the women won their own Euros, wowing spectators with pinpoint passing and flashy goals that attracted record crowds, burgeoning TV ratings and adoring coverage.

After a second year of success characterized by smiles and hugs and more booming goals, the team is described as almost a model sisterhood. Jawad, whose group campaigns against discrimination in football, sees the team as an antidote to the stereotype of rowdy English football hooligans, though more needs to be done to increase diversity in a largely white squad.

"The Lionesses give us an opportunity to rewrite that story and say that actually the England team reflects a younger and more hopeful and more international kind of global outlook that wants to embrace diversity, equality and really wants to give people a sense of values …" Jawad said. "It sets the cultural tone for our country in a way that our politics doesn't, unfortunately."

But winning the Women's World Cup would take things to a new level. Some are already demanding a public holiday if the Lionesses win.

Little girls—and quite a few big girls—are proudly wearing their England shirts.

Pubs and specially erected fan zones around the country are expected to be overflowing on Sunday morning, despite the 11 a.m. local start time required by a nighttime game in Australia.

At St. Mary's Sunbury-on-Thames, west of London, Vicar Andrew Downes decided to shorten his Sunday service so the congregation could watch a livestream of the match in the parish hall.

Cold bubbly and hot bacon rolls will be served—not exactly bread and wine, but perhaps more appropriate for the fans.

"We will be praying like mad that the referee is a lover of the Lionesses," Father Andrew said. "I mean, Jesus saves. Let's just hope our goalie saves and we come home with the cup!"

That would provide an emphatic moment of redemption for women who lived through the long and sometimes controversial history of women's football in England.

Reds beat Blue Jays 1-0 on Encarnacion-Strand's HR in 9th inning

CINCINNATI (AP)— Christian Encarnacion-Strand homered in the ninth inning, and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Toronto Blue Jays 1-0 on Friday night in the opener of an interleague series between playoff contenders.

Encarnacion-Strand drove a 2-2 pitch from Jordan Hicks (2-8) deep to left for his fourth homer. It was Cincinnati's fourth hit of the game.

Fighting for positioning in the NL playoff standings, the Reds (64-59) won for the third time in four games.

Toronto wasted a terrific performance by José Berríos, who struck out eight in 5 2/3 innings. The right-hander allowed one hit — Matt McLain's one-out single in the sixth — and walked four.

The Blue Jays (67-56), who are in the mix for an AL wild card, dropped their second straight game.

AP

Cincinnati Reds' Christian Encarnacion-Strand (33) gestures as he rounds the bases after hitting a walkoff home run against the Toronto Blue Jays in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Cincinnati, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023.

BRAVES 4, GIANTS 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Spencer Strider struck out 10 and allowed one hit in seven innings in becoming the first 14-game winner in the majors and Atlanta blanked San Francisco for its third straight shutout.

It marked the first time since the final three games of 2015 against St. Louis that the Braves blanked an opponent in three straight games. Atlanta has five shutouts in its last eight games.

Matt Olson, Eddie Rosario, Austin Riley and Michael Harris II each drove in a run as the major league-leading Braves improved to 79-42. Harris went 4 for 5 with a double and a triple.

Strider (14-4) added to his MLB-leading strikeout total of 227, which is 40 more than the second-place Kevin Gausman of Toronto.

San Francisco managed just two hits. Alex Cobb (6-5) allowed four runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

RAYS 9, ANGELS 6, 10 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Harold Ramírez had three hits and Josh Lowe drove in three runs as the Tampa Bay rallied to beat Los Angeles in 10 innings.

Shohei Ohtani's second career grand slam in the second inning gave the Angels a 5-1 lead, but they were unable to make it stand. The Rays appeared as if they might take the lead in the ninth inning, but the Halos turned their first triple play in 26 years to keep it tied at 6.

The Rays finally broke through with three in the 10th. Pinch-runner Jose Siri started on second as the automatic runner and advanced to third on a wild pitch by Carlos Estevez (5-4).

TIGERS 4, GUARDIANS 2, 1st game; GUARDIANS 4, TIGERS 1, 2nd game

CLEVELAND (AP)—Will Brennan hit a tiebreaking two-run double in Cleveland's four-run eighth inning, and the Guardians earned a doubleheader split.

Brennan's rocket to center against José Cisnero drove in Kole Calhoun and rookie Brayan Rocchio, lifting Cleveland to a 3-1 lead. Rocchio hit a tying RBI single before Brennan delivered, and Gabriel Arias tacked on another run-scoring single.

In the opener, Miguel Cabrera drove in a run to tie Mel Ott for 11th place on the career RBIs list, and Akil Baddoo homered on the second pitch of Detroit's 4-2 win.

But Cleveland bounced back in the nightcap, earning its first victory in eight doubleheader games this season.

Cabrera's first-inning double in the first game scored Kerry Carpenter, giving him 1,868 RBIs in 21 major league seasons. It also was his 3,148th hit, putting the 40-year-old within four of tying Paul Waner for 18th all-time.

Baddoo's leadoff homer came off rookie Gavin Williams (1-4), whose winless streak reached seven starts. The right-hander went five innings, allowing three runs, and struck out four.

NATIONALS 8, PHILLIES 7

WASHINGTON (AP)—CJ Abrams hit a three-run homer to cap a six-run fourth inning, and Washington defeated Philadelphia, spoiling Michael Lorenzen's first start since throwing a no-hitter nine days earlier.

Jake Alu also drove in two runs for Washington, which has won 11 of 15 overall and 15 of 18 at home since July 8.

Kyle Schwarber homered twice for the Phillies, who have lost four of their last five games.

ROYALS 4, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. hit a go-ahead home run and Cole Ragans pitched six effective innings to help Kansas City end a three-game skid.

Ragans (4-4) struck out nine while allowing eight hits and all three Chicago runs. He struck out three straight batters to end his final inning.

The Cubs started the day 2 1/2 games behind Milwaukee in the NL Central standings and missed a chance to creep closer after striking out 13 times. Carlos Hernández, the last of four Royals relievers, pitched the ninth for his second save in five chances.

RED SOX 8, YANKEES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Rookie Masataka Yoshida hit a three-run homer four batters into the game and drove in four runs, and Brayan Bello pitched six innings to lead Boston past skidding New York.

Justin Turner singled in each of his first three at-bats and hit a pair of RBI singles. Alex Verdugo also had an RBI single to start Boston's three-run second that followed a fielding error by New York second baseman Gleyber Torres.

Aaron Judge hit a two-run homer in the eighth off Garrett Whitlock, but the Yankees dropped their sixth straight—their longest skid since losing seven in a row Sept. 4-10, 2021. New York also dropped two games under .500 this late in a season for the first time since it was 57-59 following an 11-6 win over the Angels on Aug. 31, 1995.

MARLINS 11, DODGERS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jorge Soler hit two of Miami's season-high five homers off Tony Gonsolin, and the Marlins snapped Los Angeles' 11-game winning streak.

Jake Burger hit a three-run homer and Jacob Stallings added a two-run shot while the Marlins scored six runs on three homers in the third.

Jazz Chisholm Jr.'s three-run shot in the fourth finally chased Gonsolin (8-5), who gave up a career-worst 10 runs while getting only 10 outs. He tied Don Sutton's record for homers allowed in a start during the Dodgers' Los Angeles era.

Mookie Betts set a franchise record with his 11th leadoff homer of the season for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who lost for only the second time in 17 games in August. Max Muncy and James Outman also homered while the Dodgers got more hits (10) than Miami (nine), but Los Angeles couldn't overcome Gonsolin's calamitous start.

MARINERS 2, ASTROS 0

HOUSTON (AP)—Julio Rodríguez and Mike Ford homered, Bryce Miller threw 6 1/3 shutout innings and Seattle extended its winning streak to four games in beating Houston.

Rodríguez continued to swing a hot bat, finishing with four hits, including a solo home run to left field in the third. He had five hits and drove in five RBIs on Thursday. Rodríguez tied a club record by hitting safely in nine straight at-bats, but that run was halted on a fielding error by Jeremy Peña in the seventh.

BREWERS 9, RANGERS 8

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Carlos Santana hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning to lead Milwaukee past Texas in a matchup of division leaders.

The NL Central-leading Brewers rallied after the AL West-leading Rangers took a 4-3 lead in the sixth inning. Milwaukee went on to score six unanswered runs over the next two innings.

The Brewers (66-57) have a two-game lead over the Cincinnati Reds in their division.

Nathaniel Lowe and Mitch Garver homered for Texas (72-50), which lost a series opener for the first time in August. The Rangers hold a 2½ game lead over Houston, which also lost Friday night, in the division. Josh Sborz (5-5) took the loss.

PADRES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Fernando Tatis Jr. capped San Diego's four-run eighth inning with a two-run homer, and the Padres beat Arizona.

San Diego won for the third time in four games, improving to 3-2 on a 10-game homestand. The Padres (59-64) need a strong finish and some help to rally to an NL wild card.

Robert Suarez (2-2) got three outs for the win, and Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth.

Diamondbacks rookie Brandon Pfaadt pitched seven crisp innings. He struck out five and walked three. Pfaadt was working on a no-hitter before Juan Soto doubled with one out in the seventh. The right-hander remains winless in 12 career starts.

ORIOLES 9, ATHLETICS 4

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run homer in the second and added an RBI single to back Kyle Gibson's winning start, and Baltimore beat Oakland.

Gibson (12-7) struck out six and didn't walk a batter, allowing four runs on nine hits over five innings coming off his first loss in seven starts. He is one win from matching his career high done twice previously and last in 2019 with Minnesota.

Cedric Mullins hit a two-run double in the Orioles' three-run first that also featured an RBI single by Ryan Mountcastle. Adam Frazier contributed an RBI double, while Jordan Westburg had a run-scoring single and sacrifice fly in Baltimore's balanced offensive attack.

The A's got one back in the bottom half of the first on Seth Brown's RBI double and he hit an RBI single in the fifth. Tony Kemp and Brent Rooker added run-scoring doubles.

TWINS 5, PIRATES 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Pablo López pitched six scoreless innings and Michael A. Taylor hit a two-run homer to send Minnesota past Pittsburgh.

López (9-6) allowed six hits and walked two, and extended his scoreless inning streak to a career-best 19 innings. He had seven strikeouts. He hasn't allowed a run in his last three starts.

The Twins won for the fourth time in five games and extended their lead in the AL Central to five games over Cleveland.

METS 7, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Brandon Nimmo hit a leadoff home run, Jeff McNeil had a three-run shot and New York got its third straight win.

Joey Lucchesi (2-0) allowed four hits, walked two and struck out five in 5 2/3 scoreless innings in his first major league start since May 13 at Washington.

Nimmo drove the third pitch he saw from Zack Thompson (2-5) into the center-field bleachers for his 18th home run. It was his fourth leadoff home run this season and the 11th of his career, and gave him a 10-game hitting streak.

ROCKIES 14, WHITE SOX 1

DENVER (AP)—Ezequiel Tovar, Elias Díaz and Ryan McMahon all homered, Peter Lambert pitched seven strong innings, and Colorado beat Chicago.

The Rockies finished with a season-high scoring total after coming in having lost seven of their past eight games and 15 of 21.

Tovar and Díaz each hit two-run home runs as part of a five-run first inning that gave Colorado a comfortable lead. Ryan McMahon got his team-leading 21st homer on a 433-foot shot in the fourth inning.

Lambert (3-4) gave up Elvis Andrus' 100th career home run on the first pitch of the game before he settled in to allow just four hits and no runs over the next six innings.

Michael Kopech (5-11) gave up a career-worst nine runs over four innings for the White Sox, who have lost five of six and 17 of their last 24.

Marianas Tourism Golf Classic features hole-in-one prize from Joeten Motors

The Marianas Tourism Education Council announces a 2023 Honda HRV Sport from Joeten Motors awaits one lucky hole-in-one winner at the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic to be held on Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

"Joeten Motors is always happy to support local non-profit organizations like MTEC and their efforts to improve the islands through educating the youth. We look forward to a great tournament this year. Good luck to all the golfers," said Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets.

Tournament proceeds will help fund the education work of the MTEC, a non-profit which focuses on community outreach, and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs. MTEC marks its 22nd anniversary this year.

"We're very grateful to Joeten Motors for making tourism their business with sponsorship of a hole-in-one prize with their 2023 Honda HRV Sport vehicle," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "We invite all golfers to come out and support the Marianas Tourism Golf Classic and make the most of their chance to win this great sport car!"

Other hole-in-one prizes are $5,000 cash from Island Training Solutions, $5,000 cash from Triple J Saipan Inc., and a $10,000 shopping spree from Top Shelf Wines & Spirits.

Registration is $120 until Aug. 25, 2023. After Aug. 25, registration increases to $140. Optional play is $30. Only 144 players will be registered. No refunds will be issued after Aug. 25. Registration—including payment—is being accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (credit card or cash only) and the Marianas Visitors Authority office (cash or check only) on Beach Road, Garapan, at the Gold Beach Hotel building. Checks should be made payable to Marianas Tourism Education Council. Registration forms and sponsorship details are now available on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

The tournament format will be medal play. Flight categories are Championship (0-5), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-16), C Flight (17+), Ladies, Senior (ages 55-60), and Super Senior (ages 61 and above). Showtime on Sept. 2 is 6am with a shotgun start at 7am. The awards luncheon will immediately follow the tournament.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Golf Classic Committee Chairman Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or committee member Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664-3200/1. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets, far right, presents a 2023 Honda HRV Sport on Aug. 11, 2023, at their showroom in Chalan Laulau, Saipan, as a hole-in-one prize for the Marianas Tourism Golf Classic to be held on Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. From left, Joeten Motors Sales manager Ray Alvarez, tournament committee vice chair Glenn Policare, Joeten Motors operations manager Peter Tenorio, tournament committee member Franco Santos, Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, and Deets.

JACK

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basketball and what he can do to help the youth through basketball and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Lee said of Aranda being chosen, "Jack had been the captain for the NMI senior men's national program for the past two years and had been an exceptional leader and role model to his peers. He had showcased his leadership by leading by example both on and off the court and not just with basketball but also in life."

Lee added, "In my opinion he will be a great mentor to our future generations to come so I'm excited to see where this great opportunity by FIBA will lead him to."

According to the FIBA website, the program was last held as a camp in 2016.

The year, it will consist of four online workshops in September, followed by a three-day intensive workshop from Oct. 20 to 22 in Auckland, New Zealand with Sarah Cowley, Inoke Niubalavu, Byron Vaetoe, and Olympian Annie La Fluer to share their insight and provide valuable mentorship.

TAGA

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prime age for them."

Of course, with coaching children, she said there are challenges. "I think like any educator, it's about management and always trying to figure out and adapt on the spot. What's the best way to keep the kids engaged? So that's something that's always the hard part about it."

She added, "It's trying to let them have fun—what are different things in drills that we can switch out so that they're constantly having fun and not just standing around waiting?"

The program is every Saturday starting last Saturday until Nov. 25, 2023.

The program is divided into two time slots and two age groups: 6- to 9-year-olds are from 9am to 10:15am, while 10- to 12-year-olds are from 10:30am to 12pm.

The fee for the program is $45 per month.

To prepare for World Cup, USA Basketball brought some help for practices

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Among the prized possessions that John Jenkins has collected in his career: a handwritten letter from former USA Basketball coach Gregg Popovich for his role on the Tokyo Olympic team, and a gold medal from those games.

His medal is a replica. His effort was very real. And who knows, another shiny souvenir might be coming his way in a few weeks.

As part of its preparations for big tournaments in recent years—such as the World Cup, which begins on Friday in the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan—USA Basketball has been taking a few extra players to help in practices and workouts. Jenkins, Langston Galloway and Eric Mika were the trio that got the call for this trip; they go home on Sunday, one day before the Americans leave for Manila and their World Cup run.

"To have this opportunity given to me again, I've never been more grateful in my life than now," Jenkins said.

These aren't some guys off the street who were brought in to be tackling dummies. Make no mistake: They all could be on NBA rosters right now. Galloway has appeared in 452 NBA games with seven different franchises. Jenkins has appeared in 171 games with five franchises. Mika had six points and seven rebounds in his only NBA game, more than holding his own on a night where LeBron James and Anthony Davis were on the opposing team.

They were among the 52 players, most of them from the G League, that USA Basketball brought in for the 12 qualifying games — six different teams were assembled to play each of the two-game windows that wound up securing the Americans their spot in the World Cup.

"The people working in USA Basketball, we're just placeholders, right?" said Sean Ford, USA Basketball's men's national team director. "But there's a lot of people that contribute to make USA Basketball what it is. And once you've done it, you own a piece of USA Basketball — and we can never have too many investors. So, they feel a part of it."

As they should.

Nobody played in more World Cup qualifying games than Galloway, who appeared in 10 of the 12 contests. On the night when the Americans clinched the World Cup spot in February, Galloway led the charge in an 88-77 win over Uruguay with 21 points—including 11 straight in the fourth quarter to help put the win away.

It's the guys like him that gave the U.S. a chance to win gold this summer.

BRIDGE

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sacre as the 670 Rollers stumbled and fell while Bridge Capital went on their merry way to a 21-point lead by the end of it.

Bridge Capital's Khristian David took it upon himself to lead the team to victory with his 20 points, but was also well backed up by Gelo Genese, Aparte, and Ronald Bernardo's 15 points each.

By the fourth quarter, it was too little, too late for the Rollers to roll their way back to a comeback even with Josh Norita's 12 points and Freddie Pelisamen's 10 points as Bridge Capital kept their shots coming.

The Rollers could not bridge the gap Bridge Capital built and fell behind an 18-point deficit.

For JTM Saipan's and Choju's game, Choju had the lead in the first quarter, 22-17. However, JTM changed their tactics and had an explosion of offense in the second quarter and left Choju behind.

JTM's Rodel Pastrana scored 9 points in that quarter alone and ended the game with a game-high 31 points.

It was safe to say Pastrana's accurate shots and able-bodied defense allowed JTM to comeback and hold on to the lead, but he was also assisted by Elmer Esdrelon's 16 points, and Kenneth Rodriguez's and Carl Aldan's 10 markers each.

Meanwhile, Choju tried to keep pace with JTM and were always just a few points behind, but Frankie Satur's 24 points and Henry Aguon's 21 markers were in vain as they could not take the lead anymore towards the last minutes of the game.

A Plus team defeated Lakay-New San Antonio Market, 67-59, in the first game on Thursday, while the first game on Friday was rescheduled.

Results of Saturday's game will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

THURSDAY

Bridge Capital 95 – David 20, Genese 15, Aparte 15, Bernardo 15, Capalad 9, Docs 8, Lilies 6, Solis 3, Gariguez 2, Ramos 2.

670 Rollers 77 – Norita 12, Asauo 11, Pelisamen 10, Factor 9, Raquepo 6, Quizon 6, Eugenio 5, Cruz 5, Laxamana 4, Viana 4, Ong 2, Babauta 2, Sablan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 24-14, 42-29, 70-49, 95-77.

FRIDAY

JTM Saipan 85 – Pastrana 31, Esdrelon 16, Rodrigues 10, Aldan 10, Moises 6, Broncano 4, Talania 4, Verdiflor 2, Rodriguez 2.

Choju 79 – F. Satur 24, Aguon 21, Dikito 12, V. Satur 7, Nekaifes 6, Mariano 4, Aguon 2, Quitugua 2, Pua 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-22, 40-33, 63-59, 85-79.

Spain is playing first Women's World Cup final against England.

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Jack Aranda is FIBA Oceania youth leader

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Jack Aranda has been appointed as its representative in the FIBA Foundation's Youth Leadership Program as a FIBA Oceania youth leader.

Aranda is one of 17 leaders in the Oceania region chosen to represent their islands.

The program, in line with FIBA's strategic objective to develop youth basketball, is to support the development of youth basketball leaders across Oceania.

Across the program, participants will cover a variety of topics including personal development, communication skills, teamwork, goal setting, diversity and inclusion, ethical leadership, and community engagement.

The 28-year-old said that he's "extremely excited and honored to take part in this opportunity."

When asked what he looks forward to in the program, he said "I really look forward to gaining leadership attributes. As a basketball player I believe leadership is a fun and challenging role, and as a competitor I'm always willing to learn from others in ways to shape my individual skills."

The NMI Senior Men's National Team captain then thanked Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee.

The Marianas Visitors Authority event coordinator had to turn in an application reflecting his plans and thoughts about

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LEIGH GASES
CNMI Men's National Basketball Team point guard Jack Aranda (No.3) is the islands' representative in the FIBA Foundation's Youth Leadership Program as a FIBA Oceania Youth Leader

Taga Hoops program draws about 30 participants

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The debut of the Taga Hoops program under the Kultura Basketball Academy drew close to 30 participants last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

The basketball program caters to the youth aged 6-12 under the coaching of academy instructor and longtime national basketball coach and development officer Elias Rangamar.

Kina Rangamar, manager of the academy, said that the younger participants focused on the basics of basketball, while the older group focused on skill building, movement, and coordination.

She said that as Elias Rangamar's daughter, she was fortunate enough to be taught under him. Now, with her dad's program, she said the participants "are able to go through with the opportunity and sort of start in the grassroots program and get basketball growing again. It's important that they try it out and just have fun to gain that passion like I did."

Lia Rangamar, assistant coach in the academy, said that with the program, "we hope to get more kids to fall in love with basketball because this is a

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LEIGH GASES
Kultura Basketball Academy Elias Rangamar, far right, is seen coaching 6- to 9-years-old participants of the Taga Hoops program last Saturday morning at the Agape Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES
The 6- to 9-year-old age group poses for a photo with Kultura Basketball Academy instructor Elias Rangamar, fifth from right, and assistant coach Connie Camacho, second left, after their morning session of the Taga Hoops program at the Agape Gymnasium last Saturday.

Bridge Capital, JTM Saipan earn wins in Eagles caging

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Bridge Capital and JTM Saipan earned wins in the open division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Thursday and Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Bridge Capital steamrolled the 670 Rollers, 95-77, last Thursday, while JTM Saipan bounced back to win a close game against Choju, 85-79, last Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some players of the Bridge Capital team pose for a photo during the opening ceremony of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Michael Aparte of Bridge Capital allowed his team to come out of the first quarter with a 10-point lead as he made 8 of the team's 24 points. Bridge Capital still had the upper hand in the second quarter as the 670 Rollers made only 15 points due to Bridge Capital's tight defense.

The third quarter was a mas-

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